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Thursday, March 13, 2014

# Building Collapse Shakes Harlem



Firefighters work to extinguish the last flames from an explosion caused by a gas leak that destroyed two buildings on Park Avenue in the East Harlem neighborhood of New York, March 12, 2014.

(Ozier Muhammad/The New York Times)

## At Least Three Killed as Gas Leak Triggers Explosion

**Marc Santora**

© 2014 New York Time

**NEW YORK** - A gas leak triggered a large explosion in East Harlem on Wednesday morning, destroying two buildings, killing three people and injuring at least 18

others. Nine remain missing, according to authorities at press time.

Firefighters were still battling flames in the afternoon and prepared to sift through the debris for survivors, most likely a delicate

operation that could last into the night.

"This is a tragedy of the worst kind because there was no indication in time to save people," Mayor Bill de Blasio said during a news conference shortly after

noon.

"There will be a search through the rubble as soon as the fire has been put out," de Blasio said.

"This will take quite a bit of time."

A senior city official said

that they had received reports of more than a dozen people who cannot be reached, but cautioned that the missing may simply be out of touch.

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**DEATH TOLL RISES  
IN VENEZUELA AS  
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# Report: Chinese site may show plane debris images

CHRIS BRUMMITT

EILEEN NG

Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia

(AP) — Satellite images on a Chinese government website show suspected debris from the missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner floating off the southern tip of Vietnam, near the plane's original flight path, China's Xinhua News Agency reported Wednesday.

The revelation could provide searchers with a focus that has eluded them since the plane disappeared with 239 people aboard early Saturday.

The Xinhua report said the images from around 11 a.m. on Sunday appear to show "three suspected floating objects" of varying sizes, the largest about 24 meters (79 feet) by 22 meters (72 feet).

The report includes coordinates of a location in the sea off the southern tip of Vietnam and east of Malaysia. The images originally were posted on a national defense technology website.

No other governments have confirmed the Xinhua report, which did not say when Chinese officials became aware of the images and associated them with the missing plane.

With the passage of time since the satellite images were taken, it is far from certain that whatever they show would be in the same

location now.

The search for the plane, which left Kuala Lumpur for Beijing before disappearing early Saturday, has encompassed 35,800 square miles of Southeast Asia and on Wednesday expanded toward India.

Two-thirds of the passengers on the flight were Chinese, and the Chinese government has put increasing pressure on Malaysian officials to solve the mystery of the plane's disappearance.

Also, Wednesday, it was revealed that the last message from the cockpit of the missing flight was routine. "All right, good night," was the signoff transmitted to air traffic controllers five days ago.

Then the Boeing 777 vanished as it cruised over the South China Sea toward Vietnam, and nothing has been seen or heard of the jetliner since.

Those final words were picked up by controllers and relayed in Beijing to anguished relatives of some of the people aboard Flight MH370.

The new Chinese reports of the satellite images came after several days of sometimes confusing and conflicting statements from Malaysian officials.

Earlier Wednesday, the Malaysian military officially disclosed why it was searching on both sides of country: A review of military ra-

dar records showed what might have been the plane turning back and crossing westward into the Strait of Malacca.

That would conflict with the latest images on the Chinese website.

For now, authorities said the international search effort would stay focused on

to decide whether a given piece of information is accurate," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said in Beijing. "We will not give it up as long as there's still a shred of hope."

"We have nothing to hide," said Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin

land between Malaysia and southern Vietnam. It sent no distress signals or any indication it was experiencing problems.

The amount of time needed to find aircraft that go down over the ocean can vary widely. Planes that crash into relatively shallow areas, like the waters



A man stands under an umbrella near an office building with lights forming the words MH370, the flight number of the missing Malaysia Airlines plane in Shanghai, China Wednesday, March 12, 2014. Malaysian authorities defended their handling of the hunt for the missing Boeing 777 on Wednesday even as they acknowledging they were unsure which direction the plane was headed when it disappeared, highlighting the massive task facing an international search mission now in its fifth day.

(AP Photo)

the South China Sea and the strait leading toward the Andaman Sea.

Chinese impatience has grown.

"There's too much information and confusion right now. It is very hard for us

Hussein. "There is only confusion if you want to see confusion."

Flight MH370 disappeared from civilian radar screens at 1:30 a.m. Saturday at an altitude of about 35,000 feet above the Gulf of Thai-

off Vietnam where the Malaysian jet is missing, are far easier to locate and recover than those that plunge deep into undersea canyons or mountain ranges.

By contrast, much of the Gulf of Thailand is less than 300 feet (91 meters) deep.

The Malaysian government said it had asked India to join in the search near the Andaman Sea, suggesting the jetliner might have reached those waters after crossing into the Strait of Malacca, some 400 kilometers from the flight's last-known coordinates.

Malaysian officials met in Beijing with several hundred Chinese relatives of passengers to explain the search and investigation, and to relay the last transmission that Malaysian air traffic controllers received before the plane entered Vietnamese airspace, according to a participant in the meeting. □

## Russia news site chief fired over Ukraine coverage

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The owner of a leading independent Russian news website has fired its chief editor following official complaints over the outlet's coverage of Ukraine. Lenta.ru says Alexander Mamut, who also owns several other media outlets, dismissed Galina Timchenko on Wednesday. She will be replaced by the former editor of a staunchly pro-Kremlin website.

The Lenta.ru editorial team said in a statement that Timchenko's removal marked a further decline of media freedom in Russia.

"The firing of an independent chief editor and the appointment of a malleable person — one that comes directly from the offices of the Kremlin — this is a violation of the law on mass media, which rules out any censorship," said the statement, which was signed by dozens of Lenta.ru writers and editors.

The website had received a warning from a state communications regulator over an interview with a prominent radical Ukrainian nationalist Andriy Tarasenko, who had engaged in the anti-government protests

that sent Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych fleeing to Russia last month.

The regulator said the website also had included a link to earlier comments by Dmytro Yarosh, a nationalist leader who is wanted in Russia on charges of instigating terrorism over recent alleged calls for Chechen insurgents to mount attacks against Russia. The regulator said the website breached a law banning dissemination of extremist material. Lenta.ru is the most read online news outlet in Russia, attracting 10 million hits daily, according

to figures cited by Internet and technology news website TheRunet.com.

Mamut, a metals and banking billionaire who also owns the British bookstore chain Waterstones, oversaw an online media merger in 2013 that gave him control over several popular news outlets, including Lenta.ru. Lenta.ru has since its creation in 1999 earned a reputation as a vibrant news outlet in a landscape largely dominated by media either directly controlled by the state or notable for their adherence to its official line. □

## Judge dismisses charges in Indian diplomat case

JENNIFER PELTZ  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — An Indian diplomat whose arrest and strip-search spurred an international flap had charges against her dismissed by a federal judge on Wednesday.

The judge's ruling said Devyani Khobragade had diplomatic immunity when she was indicted on charges of fraudulently obtaining a work visa for her housekeeper and lying about the maid's pay. But the ruling leaves open the possibility prosecutors could bring a new indictment against her.

The U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan didn't immediately comment on its plans. Khobragade's attorney, Daniel Arshack, said she was pleased by the ruling. "The judge did what the law required, and that is: that a criminal proceeding against an individual with immunity must be dismissed," Arshack said. "She's (Khobragade's) hugely frustrated by what has occurred. She is heartened that the rule of law prevailed."

News that Khobragade was strip-searched chilled U.S.-Indian relations, and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry called a top Indian official to express his regret over what happened.

After being indicted, Khobragade complied with a Department of State order to leave the U.S. The Indian government then asked Washington to withdraw a diplomat from the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi. The U.S. complied. Wednesday's ruling centers on the complexities of different levels of legal protection afforded to diplomats. When Khobragade was arrested in December, U.S. officials said her status as a consular officer provided immunity limited to acts performed in the exercise of official functions. She disagreed, and then, on the day before her Jan. 9 indictment, she got a new appointment that conferred broader immunity. □

## Obama calls for a 'rethinking' on Crimea vote

BRADLEY KLAPPER

JULIE PACE  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama declared Wednesday that the U.S. would "completely reject" a vote in Crimea opening the door for the strategic Ukrainian peninsula to join Russia if the election goes ahead on Sunday. Adding pressure on Russia, the Senate advanced a package of potentially tough economic sanctions against Moscow. Obama made a point of welcoming Ukraine's new leader to the White House, declaring as they sat side-

choices are made, and it can get ugly in multiple directions." Kerry will meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Friday in London in a last-ditch effort to halt the referendum. Amid the maneuvering, Obama met in the Oval Office with new Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, praising him and the Ukrainian people as the two sat for TV coverage. The meeting was aimed at showcasing the United States' commitment to Ukraine, the former Soviet republic at the center of rising tensions between East and West.

"There's another path

sure, which next would go to the full Senate, would authorize \$1 billion in loan guarantees to Ukraine's new government and allow the Obama administration to impose economic penalties on Russian officials responsible for the intervention in Crimea or culpable of gross corruption. "Putin has miscalculated by playing a game of Russian roulette with the international community, but we refuse to blink and will never accept this violation of international law," said Sen. Bob Menendez, a Democrat and chairman of the Foreign Relations

legislators proposed, but it would give Secretary of State John Kerry more leeway as he readies for diplomatic talks with his Russian counterpart in Europe on Friday.

Obama urged Congress to move quickly to finalize the loan guarantees, which are supposed to supplement \$15 billion in assistance from the European Union, as well as additional money from the International Monetary Fund. The money pledged thus far is less than Ukraine says it will need in order to recover from its recent political upheaval. The coun-



President Barack Obama, right, talks with Ukraine Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, left, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, March 12, 2014. Obama welcomed Ukraine's new prime minister as the U.S. seeks to highlight ties with the former Soviet republic now caught in a diplomatic battle between East and West.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

by-side that he hoped there would be a "rethinking" by Russian President Vladimir Putin of the referendum. If the vote does occur, Obama said, the international community "will be forced to apply a cost to Russia's violation of international law."

Secretary of State John Kerry also was talking tough, telling Congress, "It can get ugly fast if the wrong

available and we hope President Putin is willing to seize that path," Obama said.

"But if he does not, I'm very confident that the international community will stand firmly behind the Ukrainian government."

As Obama and Yatsenyuk met, a Senate committee moved forward on legislation with potential punishments for Russia. The mea-

Committee. In the 14-3 vote, all committee Democrats supported the measure. Some Republican expressed concerns about how the U.S. would pay for the loan guarantees and about provisions to expand the lending authority of the International Monetary Fund.

The bill stops short of going after Russian banks or energy companies as some

try's pro-Russian President, Viktor Yanukovych, fled Kiev for Russia in late February amid growing protests over his decision to scrap an agreement to boost ties with Europe.

Shortly after Yanukovych left, Russia began moving military forces into Crimea, a strategically important peninsula where 60 percent of the population is ethnic Russian. □

## AP among First Amendment award winners

JENNIFER C. KERR  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Radio Television Digital News Foundation is presenting its First Amendment Award to The Associated Press for defending press freedoms against secret government subpoenas for reporters' phone calls. Journalists for Gannett, NBC, ABC and CBS were also cited by the foundation for their efforts to protect a free press.

The AP was selected as the 2014 winner of the foundation's First Amendment Award, which honors an individual or organization that champions the First Amendment and press freedoms.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of the press among other rights.

"The board was impressed with the way The Associated Press handled itself and fought for its reporters after discovering that the Department of Justice had acquired the phone records of some of its reporters," said Vincent Duffy, chairman of the foundation. "RTDNF believes that the free press rights enjoyed in our industry can only be maintained when organizations like The Associated Press are willing to fight to keep them."

AP President and chief executive Gary Pruitt, formerly a First Amendment attorney, was accepting the award Wednesday night at a foundation dinner.

Pruitt was highly critical of the Justice Department after learning that it secretly subpoenaed two months' worth of telephone records for 21 phone lines used by AP reporters and editors. The Obama administration was trying to find out who leaked information for a May 2012 story about a foiled plot in Yemen to bomb a U.S.-bound airliner. Pruitt called the records' seizure "overbroad, sloppy and a fishing expedition" — and an attack on a free press. □

Continued from front

The explosion, which could be heard more than a mile away, blew out windows in surrounding buildings and sent debris crashing down onto nearby streets. Witnesses reported seeing people trapped in their cars, in the rubble and in neighboring apartments. They described desperate rescue attempts even as family and friends of some people who live in the destroyed buildings sought information about their condition.

sion occurred. Elizabeth Matthews, a spokeswoman for the Consolidated Edison utility, said that a report from someone claiming to smell a heavy gas odor came in at 9:13 a.m. The person reported smelling gas in her apartment but noted that it could have come from outside. At 9:15 a.m. two Con Edison crews were dispatched and they arrived just after the explosion. The two collapsed buildings were five stories, with

ished and we all went to sleep. We tried to find the source of the gas but since the smell left, we all went to sleep."

Through tears, she begged firefighters to find her husband.

In the immediate aftermath, witnesses described a panicked scene, with people running, unsure what was happening. As his own building rumble on Lexington Avenue, Michael Lewis, 48, raced to the scene, arriving before most emergency person-

David Antar, the owner of a nearby deli, felt his building shake around 9:30 a.m. He ran toward the scene, joined by dozens of bystanders, he said, as smoke filled the sky. Flames shot out of the buildings, and cars that were stopped at a traffic light were covered in debris.

"The whole building is in the middle of the street," Antar said.

Waldemar Infante, 24, said that there was a church and a piano store on the street level of the buildings.



Firefighters work the scene of an explosion that leveled two apartment buildings in the East Harlem neighborhood of New York, Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

(AP Photo/Jeremy Sailing)

The Fire Department said it received the first report at 9:31 a.m., and discovered upon arriving that two residential buildings had completely collapsed.

More than three hours after the explosion, firefighters continued to battle flames. Trained dogs were assisting in the search for survivors.

"We have to be very careful," said Fire Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano. "The building is in a very precarious position."

Officials said the only indication of danger came minutes before the explo-

at least a dozen apartments between the two of them. They were about 55 feet tall, according to Buildings Department records.

Jennifer Salas, 20, lives in one of the collapsed buildings.

She said her husband, Jordy Salas, was in the building at the time of the collapse and was still missing.

"There's six floors in the building, each floor has one apartment," she said. "Last night it smelled like gas but then the smell van-

ished. He and a small group of neighbors surrounded a van, partly submerged by the rubble, and could see four people trapped inside, Lewis said.

"I heard some moans and groans," he said.

As the group tore through the wreckage, beside a mountain of debris on the sidewalk, emergency responders arrived and pulled Lewis and the others away.

"I'm a New Yorker," Lewis said. "You've got to help the people."

"I'm sure there was people in that building when that happened," he said.

More than 200 firefighters from 44 units responded and were still working to extinguish the fire as paramedics came to the scene. They donned surgical masks as a thick, gray smoke blanketed the neighborhood.

Metro-North Railroad service in and out of Grand Central Terminal was suspended, officials said, with debris from the buildings thrown onto the elevated train tracks. □



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## Teens to stand trial in Australian player death

KRISTI EATON

Associated Press

DUNCAN, Oklahoma (AP) — A state judge ruled Wednesday that two teenagers charged with first-degree murder must face a trial in the shooting death of an Australian baseball player. Prosecutors say a third suspect will testify against them. Police and prosecutors say the boys targeted Christopher Lane, 22, last August as a way to overcome a boring summer afternoon. The random slaying horrified Lane's home country, with some calling on Australians to avoid the United States and its violent gun culture. Chancey Luna, 16, and Michael Dewayne Jones, 18, were ordered to stand trial, while prosecutors said James Francis Edwards Jr., 16, will testify against them and be charged with a lesser crime.

The preliminary hearing for Luna and Jones had been delayed last month after a witness asked to be represented by an attorney. Edwards testified at the earlier hearing that he was rolling marijuana cigarettes in the front passenger seat when Luna fired the fatal shot from the back while Jones drove. Edwards testified that Luna and Jones both said they had believed the gun used in the killing held blanks, not a live round. Prosecutors last month charged Edwards as an accessory after the

fact. According to court documents, Edwards made a phone call from the Stephens County Jail between Aug. 16 and Dec. 31, 2013, and asked someone to dispose of the weapon. Edwards testified Tuesday that he later learned the gun was disposed of but said he does not know where the weapon is. He is due back in court in May for a preliminary hearing for that charge.

Prosecutors have said they will drop the first-degree murder charge in exchange for him continuing to testify against the other two teenagers through trial. In other testimony Wednesday, another teenager took the stand but repeatedly invoked his constitutional right to keep silent when asked about his conversations with the suspects. Also, a Stephens County Sheriff's Office dispatcher

who said she overheard Jones while he was in custody say that they tried to "kill others and kept miss-

ing." Heather George corrected her testimony when a lawyer for Jones pointed out that a typed statement

she made immediately after the alleged incident read "shoot others but we kept missing." □



In this photo shot through a courtroom door, defendant Chancey Jones, left, is led from the courtroom following a hearing in Duncan, Okla., Wednesday, March 12, 2014. At right is defendant Michael Jones. Both are charged in the murder of Australian Christopher Lane.

(AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

## Student who sued parents returns home

SAMANTHA HENRY

Associated Press

ROSELAND, New Jersey (AP) — The teenage student who sued to get her parents to support her after she moved out of their home has reunited with them, and the family is now asking for privacy.

Rachel Canning's return does not involve any financial or other considerations, the lawyer for the 18-year-old's parents said Wednesday. Angelo Sarno said

that the dispute had been settled "amicably," but refused to comment further on the litigation.

Sarno said Rachel Canning moved back in with her parents on Tuesday night and said the notoriety surrounding the suit had damaged the family.

"This is a matter that should have been brought in some counselor's office, not into a courtroom," Sarno said. "There's a long road ahead, this is not some-

thing that's going to happen overnight. The point of this process? The healing needs to begin."

A judge last week had denied the teen's request for child support and to have her parents pay her remaining high school tuition. But the judge scheduled an April court date to consider the over-arching question of whether the Cannings are obligated to financially support their adult daughter. State Superior Court

Judge Peter Bogaard sounded skeptical of some of the claims in the lawsuit, saying it could lead to teens "thumbing their noses" at their parents, leaving home and then asking for financial support.

"Are we going to open the gates for 12-year-olds to sue for an Xbox? For 13-year-olds to sue for an iPhone?" he asked. "We should be mindful of a potentially slippery slope." □

## Q&amp;A ON THE NEWS

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**Q:** I have just been told about new tax law 1411 that imposes a 3.8 percent surtax on the net investment income of individuals, estates and trusts. Can you tell me more?

-- Carol Murphy, Woodstock, Ga.

**A:** The Net Investment Income Tax (NIIT), which went into effect on Jan. 1, 2013, generally will affect taxpayers, estates and trusts that have a net investment income or an excess of the modified adjusted gross income of more than \$200,000 a year. That includes income from "interest, dividends, capital gains, rental and royalty income, and non-qualified annuities," according to IRS.gov. The filing thresholds are: Married filing jointly: \$250,000; Single or head of household: \$200,000; Married filing separately: \$125,000. "And since only roughly 3 (percent) of the population has modified adjusted gross income in excess of those thresholds, the other 97 (percent) need not worry about the tax," tax expert Tony Nitti wrote on Forbes.com. NIIT was added to the IRS code as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

**Q:** The U.S. Secretary of Defense proposes to shrink the active-duty Army to between 440,000 and 450,000 soldiers from the current 522,000. How many active-duty soldiers are in the armies of Russia, China and North Korea?

-- Donnie Coker, Atlanta

**A:** Russia had 766,055 army personnel in January 2013, according to published reports. There were 1.483 million people in China's People's Liberation Army last April, according to the Hindustan Times, an English-language daily newspaper in India. It's estimated that the size of North Korea's army is 1.2 million, with 7.7 million in reserve, The Associated Press reported last April. Experts say North Korea's armed forces suffer from supply shortages and outdated equipment.

**Q:** How many military bases does the U.S. have around the world? What other countries have military bases outside of their borders?

-- Donald Varn, Conyers, Ga.

**A:** The U.S. had 598 bases of varying sizes in 40 countries and 97 more bases in U.S. territories as of Sept. 30, 2012, according to the Department of Defense's 2013 Base Structure Report. Among those, there were 179 bases in Germany, 109 in Japan and 83 in South Korea. France has bases in several countries, mostly former African colonies, but also one in the United Arab Emirates that opened in 2009. The United Kingdom has bases in several countries, including Canada. India, Japan, Russia and Turkey are among the other countries that maintain international bases.

**Q:** Colorado's legalization of marijuana and retail sales outlets have received a great deal of attention, but there has been no mention of where these stores buy their pot. Is it grown and harvested by the state or by independent growers regulated by the state?

-- Frank Manfre, Grayson, Ga.

**A:** Licensed growers must supply the legalized marijuana that is sold in Colorado. The state requires vertical integration, which means "that dispensaries and their affiliated grow operations must be part of the same company and dispensaries must grow (70 percent) of the product they sell," Taylor West, the deputy director of the National Cannabis Industry Association, which is headquartered in Denver, told Q-and-A on the News in an email. "Colorado uses the Marijuana Inventory Tracking Solution (MITS) that uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags to 'track every plant from seed to sale,'" West wrote. □

## Swiss ex-banker pleads guilty to a role in helping US tax evaders

MATTHEW BARAKAT

Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia (AP)

— A former Swiss banker pleaded guilty Wednesday to his role in a fraud scheme that prosecutors say helped U.S. taxpayers hide as much as \$3 billion in assets from the IRS, the U.S. tax collector. Andreas Bachmann, 56, a Swiss citizen, is one of eight former employees of Zurich-based Credit Suisse to be charged back in 2011. He is the first to be arrested and plead guilty. All eight

Swiss banking activities and demonstrates the Department of Justice's commitment to global enforcement against those that facilitate offshore tax evasion," Cole said.

In court papers, Bachmann admitted traveling twice a year to the United States as an employee of a Credit Suisse subsidiary to meet with clients who maintained secret Swiss accounts as a means of avoiding U.S. taxes. He would show clients their account statements, and if they asked for

people who had been using secret foreign accounts to evade taxes. But when clients declined to do so, Bachmann still helped them evade taxes, according to the plea agreement. The plea documents also show that Credit Suisse deliberately formed a subsidiary in the 1990s to handle tax-haven accounts that were considered too risky to operate under the flagship operation. Credit Suisse spokesman Calvin Mitchell declined comment Wednesday on



The logo of Swiss bank Credit Suisse is photographed at a building in Zurich, Switzerland. A former employee of Zurich-based Credit Suisse pleaded guilty Wednesday to his role in a fraud scheme that prosecutors say helped U.S. taxpayers hide as much as \$3 billion in assets from the IRS, the U.S. tax collector.

(AP Photo/Alessandro Della Bella)

were living in Switzerland, which has been unwilling to extradite, but Bachmann agreed to come to the U.S. and strike a plea deal. The plea hearing was scheduled several weeks ago, and he was arrested Tuesday in Alexandria.

Bachmann faces a maximum of five years in prison under the plea deal. His attorney did not return a telephone call and email seeking comment Wednesday. In a statement, Deputy Attorney General James Cole indicated that more cases could be moving forward in the coming months. "Today's plea is just the latest step in our wide-ranging investigations into

a copy he would ask them, "Do you really want to keep the statement?" and suggest that keeping physical records of the account in the U.S. was a risk.

At another point, in a discussion between Bachmann and the CEO of the subsidiary that employed him regarding compliance with U.S. laws, Bachmann says the executive told him, "Mr. Bachmann, you know what we expect of you. Don't get caught."

In 2009, after he had left Credit Suisse, Bachmann began advising clients that they should take advantage of an amnesty program that U.S. authorities were offering at the time to

Bachmann's plea. At a Senate hearing last month, Credit Suisse CEO Brady Dougan said the bank has been cooperating with U.S. authorities and that senior executives at the bank were not aware that some Credit Suisse bankers were helping U.S. customers evade taxes. The court documents do not include a specific amount of money that Bachmann helped hide from the IRS, but said he was responsible for 25 to 30 U.S. clients.

Authorities said the Credit Suisse bankers may have been responsible for hiding as much as \$3 billion back when the charges were announced in 2011. □



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## US Financial Front:

### Wall Street bonuses go up as number of jobs goes down



Chairman of Horizons ETFs' parent company, Mirae Asset Global Investments, Hyeon Joo Park, second from right, is applauded as he rings the New York Stock Exchange opening bell. The average bonus paid to securities industry employees in New York City grew 15 percent last year to more than \$164,000, the largest average Wall Street bonus since the 2008 financial crisis.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

WILLIAM ALDEN

© 2014 New York Times

**NEW YORK** - On Wall Street, profits are down and the number of workers is shrinking. But bonuses continue to swell.

Those payouts to Wall Street employees in New York City rose 15 percent on average last year, to \$164,530, according to estimates released on Wednesday by Thomas P. DiNapoli, the state comptroller. That was the biggest average bonus since 2007, the year before the financial crisis struck.

Overall, workers in the securities industry in the city made \$26.7 billion in bonuses last year. The bonus figures encompass everyone from the low-ranking employee to the chief executive, so high payouts to top managers can bring up the average.

That bonuses rose during a challenging environment for the banks reflects a cardinal rule of Wall Street: Firms are willing to pay big

for the top talent. This held true even as profits overall fell 30 percent to \$16.7 billion, according to the comptroller's report.

The total included payments that had been granted in prior years. That was because Wall Street firms, since the crisis, have sought to keep a temporary lid on costs by deferring a portion of cash compensation. Some of this cash that had been withheld was paid out last year, making bonuses larger than they otherwise might be.

While Wall Street bonuses have raised eyebrows in Washington in recent years, they are an important ingredient in the industry's pay, often making up the bulk of a workers' earnings.

From the perspective of the city, which had expected bonuses to go down, the increase is welcome news, bolstering a major source of tax revenue. DiNapoli estimated that the higher

bonuses could translate into \$100 million in tax revenue for the city in the current fiscal year above what had been anticipated.

A variety of businesses in New York - from restaurants to luxury real estate - pin their fortunes to Wall Street pay. While the financial industry makes up just 5 percent of jobs in the city, those jobs account for 22 percent of the city's wages, DiNapoli said.

"Wall Street is one of the key economic indicators and engines for our city and our state," he said at a conference in Manhattan on Wednesday. "We certainly know that the impact of the Great Recession was felt profoundly in

the securities industry here in the city."

The aftershocks of that difficult period continue to be felt. Banks grappled with challenging markets last year, in part because of uncertainty over the Federal Reserve's extraordinary economic stimulus program. On top of that, bank profits were dented by a barrage of legal issues stemming from the crisis.

The number of jobs in finance declined slightly last year, as firms sought to keep costs in check. The industry employed 165,200 people as of last December, a decline of 1.2 percent from 2012 and the second straight year of declines. □

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2014

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## Low-wage workers struggle to find middle-pay jobs

**JOSH BOAK**

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — For years, many Americans followed a simple career path: Land an entry-level job. Accept a modest wage. Gain skills. Leave eventually for a better-paying job.

The workers benefited, and so did lower-wage retailers such as Wal-Mart: When its staffers left for better-paying jobs, they could spend more at its stores. And the U.S. economy gained, too, because more consumer spending fueled growth.

Not so much anymore. Since the Great Recession began in 2007, that path has narrowed because many of the next-tier jobs no longer exist. That means more lower-wage workers have to stay put. The resulting bottleneck is helping widen a gap between the richest Americans and everyone else.

"Some people took those jobs because they were the only ones available and haven't been able to figure out how to move out of that," Bill Simon, CEO of Wal-Mart U.S., acknowledged in an interview with The Associated Press.

If Wal-Mart employees "can go to another company and another job and make more money and develop, they'll be better," Simon explained. "It'll be better for the economy. It'll be better for us as a business, to be quite honest, because they'll continue to advance in their economic life."

Yet for now, the lower-wage jobs once seen as stepping stones are in-

creasingly being held for longer periods by older, better-educated, more experienced workers.

The trend extends well beyond Wal-Mart, the largest U.S. employer, and is reverberating across the U.S. economy. It's partly why average inflation-adjusted income has declined 9 percent for the bottom 40 percent of households since 2007, even as the top 5 percent have fully recovered from the recession that began late that year, according to the Census Bureau.

Research shows that occupations that once helped elevate people from the minimum wage into the middle class have disappeared during the past three recessions dating to 1991.

One such category includes bookkeepers and executive secretaries, with average wages of \$16.54 an hour, according to the Labor Department. Since the mid-1980s, the economy has shed these middle-income jobs — a trend that's become more pronounced with the recoveries that have followed each subsequent recession, according to research by Henry Siu, an economist at the University of British Columbia, and Duke University economist Nir Jaimovich.

That leaves many workers remaining in jobs as cashiers earning an average of \$9.79 an hour, or in retail sales at roughly \$10.50 — jobs that used to be entry points to higher-paying work. Hourly pay at Wal-Mart averages \$8.90,



Wal-Mart employee Richard Wilson, 27, is photographed outside the store where he works in Chicago. Wilson earns \$9.25 an hour at that Wal-Mart and lives on the city's western edge with his grandmother.

(AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

according to the site Glassdoor.com. Since the Great Recession, the share of U.S. workers employed by the retail and restaurant sector has risen from 16.5 percent to 17.1 percent.

"It really has contributed to this widening of inequality," Siu said.

The shift has injected new pressures into the economy. Older and better-educated retail and fast food workers have become more vocal in pressing for raises. Labor unions helped launch protests last year against such employers as Wal-Mart, McDonald's and Burger King.

Fewer teenagers are staffing cash registers, prepping meals or stocking shelves, according to government

data. Replacing them are adults, many of whom are struggling with the burdens of college debt or child rearing. Some are on the verge of what was once envisioned as retirement years.

Last year, 17.4 million Americans between ages 25 and 64 earned less than \$10.10 an hour, the minimum wage proposed by President Barack Obama (The current federal minimum is \$7.25.) That's equal to an income of nearly \$19,000 for a full-time employee — less than half the median pay of a U.S. worker.

The share of Americans in their prime earning years who earn the equivalent of \$10.10 an hour or less, adjusted for inflation, has risen

to 13.4 percent from 10.4 percent in 1979, according to government data analyzed by John Schmitt, a senior economist at the progressive Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Nearly a third of low-wage employees last year had had some college education. An additional 10 percent had graduated. By contrast, in 1979 less than 25 percent of low-wage employees had college experience. Most had not completed high school. For millions of lower-wage workers, more schooling hasn't led to higher pay.

"Where you start out in terms of wages helps to predict where you move over time," Schmitt said. □

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## As ex-PM departs, Libya risks inter-region conflict

MAGGIE MICHAEL  
Associated Press

**TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)** — Libya's ousted prime minister fled to Europe after parliament voted him out, leaving behind a country that risks being torn apart as the fault line between its eastern and western regions broke open Wednesday to a degree unseen since the 2011 civil war that ousted longtime strongman Moammar Gadhafi. A western-based militia fighting in the name of parliament has launched an offensive against an autonomy-minded militia in the east that has for months occupied most of Libya's crucial oil facilities — seizing virtual control of the country's most vital resource and almost sole source of cash. This past week, it succeeded in exporting a tanker of oil from a port it holds in defiance of the central government.

In response to the offensive other militias in the east are rallying to fight back. Eastern leaders have warned that unless Tripoli backs down they will seek outright independence for their region rather than greater autonomy. Since Gadhafi's fall, Libya has been torn among multiple, rival, heavily armed militias affiliated to regions, cities and tribes, while the central government has been weak, unable to bring its authority over the country, inheriting Gadhafi-era military and police forces in disarray. Furthermore, militias have lined up on rival sides of a political struggle between Islamist politicians and their opponents. Now the success by the Islamist-leaning parliament in voting out secular figure Ali Zidan as prime minister on Tuesday has sparked fears among their opponents of a power grab by the Islamists — tensions that also could translate into militia clashes. After the vote, Islamist-allied militias demanded rival militias leave the capital, Tripoli. Instead, some anti-Islamist militias beefed up their positions in the city with armored vehicles mounted with heavy machine guns and anti-aircraft guns.

The Islamist parliament chief, Nouri Abu Sahmein, who had mandated the powerful militia from the western city of Misrata to launch its offensive to win back control of the oil facilities, appeared on Wednesday to be trying to pull back from an outright conflict with the east. In a statement, he said parliament had agreed to give the eastern militia, known as the Cyrenaica Defense Force, two weeks to end its occupation of the oil facilities. Still, the Cyrenaica Defense Force has already repeatedly refused to withdraw from the ports, and there are concerns the tensions are moving out of control. "We fear falling into a sea of darkness," former Interior Minister Ashour Shway told The Associated Press, denouncing the decision to launch the offensive against the eastern militia.

Shway warned that the armed build-up on both sides could lead inexorably to conflict. "The drums of war are now banging," he said, speaking from Benghazi, the country's second largest city and the heart of the eastern region. "We need sane people to take the lead and stop this from happening." □

**Syria:**

## Assad makes rare visit to front-lines



Syrian president Bashar Assad, center right, visits a shelter of internally displaced people in the Damascus suburb of Adra, Syria, Wednesday, March 12, 2014. Syria's state TV is reporting that President Bashar Assad has made a rare public appearance, visiting people displaced by the war in the suburb. Syrian troops have been on the offensive in Adra, just northeast of Damascus, after rebels captured parts of it in December, which displaced thousands from the area. A July U.N. estimate said 6.5 million have been uprooted from their homes and displaced within Syria.

(AP Photo)

ALBERT AJI

Associated Press

**DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)** — In a rare public appearance, Syrian President Bashar Assad visited displaced civilians Wednesday in a front-line suburb of the country's capital, state television reported. The visit to a shelter for displaced people in Adra, northeast of Damascus, was Assad's first public appearance outside the capital since August. It comes nearly four months before his seven-year term as president officially expires. Syrian officials say the presidential elections will be held on time.

Assad has suggested he would run again but hasn't confirmed whether he'll seek re-election. The poll must be held between 60 and 90 days before Assad's term ends on July 17. "The state will continue to fight terrorism and terrorists

who displace people from their homes and commit ugly crimes against them," Assad said in the television report. His government refers to rebels as terrorists. Photos released by the president's office showed Assad speaking to women, several of whom were carrying children. State television quoted Assad as vowing to care for the displaced.

Also Wednesday, the Syrian parliament met to discuss a new election law that allows candidates to run for president and allows, at least in theory, a multiparty political system in Syria. It was not immediately clear when the lawmakers would vote on the bill.

The country has been ruled by the Baath party since it seized power in a 1963 coup. Since, it's been dominated by Assad and his late father Hafez.

Under their rule, previous elections asked voters to cast "yes" or "no" ballots on whether they supported parliament's nomination of them as sole candidates for the presidency.

"Members of parliament will discuss every paragraph of the draft law that covers presidential, parliamentary and municipal elections," legislator Fayez Sayegh told The Associated Press by telephone.

Syria's conflict, now entering its fourth year, has killed more than 140,000 people. It has become increasingly sectarian, pitting Sunni rebels against Syria's patchwork of minorities, including Christians, Shiites and Alawites, the sect of Assad.

It is also marked by infighting as rebels wage war against their one-time allies, the al-Qaida breakaway group called the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. □

## Turkish police, crowds clash after teen's funeral

**ISTANBUL (AP)** — Riot police clashed with anti-government protesters in Istanbul and other Turkish cities following Wednesday's funeral of a teenager, who had been in a coma since a police tear-gas canister struck him in the head last year.

Police fired water cannons and tear gas to stop a crowd of thousands from reaching Istanbul's main square following a funeral service for 15-year old Berkin Elvan. Anti-government protests have flared since Berkin's death Tuesday.

Earlier, tens of thousands joined a funeral procession in Istanbul as Berkin's coffin was carried through the streets. Many called for the resignation of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Mourners chanted "Berkin Elvan is immortal!" "Government resign!" and "Murderer Tayyip!" Some hurled stones at a ruling party building, smashing its windows.

Police also used tear gas and water cannon to drive back protesters in the capital, Ankara, and the third-largest city, Izmir. Protests were reported in at least eight other cities.

The state-run Anadolu Agency said 73 people were arrested in Ankara. It and police provided no arrest figures for Istanbul. Protesters' anger is focused on Erdogan, in part,

heroes. Eight people, including Berkin, were mortally wounded in last summer's street clashes.

Erdogan is fighting allegations of corruption. He has been accused of seeking

knowledgeable the results will serve as a referendum on his rule.

Berkin's family says he was on his way to buy bread when he became swept up in a street protest and



A demonstrator strikes a defiant pose as police use water cannons and teargas to disperse thousands of people marching for Berkin Elvan, a Turkish teenager who died after being hit in the head by a tear gas canister fired by police during the summer's anti-government protests, during his funeral in Istanbul, Turkey, Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

(AP Photo/Emrah Gurel)

because he is blamed for ordering often heavy-handed crackdowns on anti-government protests since June 2013 and has lauded the riot police as

to derail investigations into government corruption by firing police and prosecutors from key positions.

Turkey holds local elections March 30. Erdogan has ac-

tedly been struck in the head by a high-velocity gas canister. Several police officers were questioned about Berkin's injury but no one has been charged. □

## Visiting British PM Cameron offering support for Israel

**ARON HELLER**  
Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Visiting British Prime Minister David Cameron gave Israel a welcome boost of support from Europe Wednesday in a warm address to its parliament, vowing to stand by Israel in opposing a nuclear Iran, combating Islamic extremism and rejecting boycott attempts against the Jewish state.

In a speech peppered with expressions in Hebrew, Cameron mentioned his own Jewish ancestors and Britain's crucial role in Israel's establishment. While voicing support for U.S.-led peace talks, Cameron mostly steered clear of Israeli policies that have drawn fire, with only passing criticism of West Bank settlement construction.

He did not offer advice, a common practice of visiting leaders which many Israelis find annoying, but rather asked Israelis to "imagine" the benefits of peace.

"Let me say to you very clearly: With me, you have a British prime minister whose belief in Israel is unbreakable and whose commitment to Israel's security will always be rock solid," Cameron said in his first visit to Israel as prime minister. "We will be with you every step of the way." The reassuring words were welcomed in Israel, which has come under some tough criticism in Europe.

The heaviest international censure is leveled at Israeli construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, war-won lands claimed by the Palestinians. The United States and European Union consider settlement construction illegal or illegitimate, and have warned that Israel could face growing isolation if the current round of peace talks with the Palestinians — set to end next month — fails. Cameron made only a brief mention of settlement construction, coupling it with a call to end Palestinian incitement against Israel. □

## UN: Claim of captive Saudi princesses received

**JOHN HEILPRIN**  
Associated Press

**GENEVA (AP)** — The United Nations has received pleas to help free several Saudi Arabian princesses allegedly being held against their will in a royal compound, officials confirmed Wednesday.

Allegations submitted to the U.N. human rights office claim that several daughters of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia have been held for the past 13 years in the royal compound in Jeddah.

In a rare disclosure about allegations received by not yet investigated, the U.N.'s Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights confirmed receipt of the emailed complaints but said it could be several months at least before anything is officially published about the case. The office did not say

whether it considered the complaints substantial enough to warrant a follow-up investigation. Xa-

that U.N. officials are "not in a position to confirm if any action has been taken on this case."



Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah speaks in Rawdat Khurayim, a secluded royal hunting retreat in Saudi Arabia. The United Nations has received pleas to help free several Saudi Arabian princesses allegedly being held against their will in a royal compound, officials confirmed Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Brendan Smialowski)

bier Celya of the U.N.'s Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights told The Associated Press

violence against women, who along with investigators on other issues receives complaints from around the world and must determine which ones merit a closer look. There was no immediate reaction from the Saudi U.N. mission in Geneva.

The case stems from an email sent to the United Nations and The Sunday Times of London, which published a story saying two daughters of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia — Princesses Sahar, 42, and Jawaher, 38 — had appealed for help claiming they and their sisters have been held for 13 years in the royal compound. The newspaper said that their mother, Alanoud Alfayez, who lives in London and is divorced from the king, also contacted the United Nations seeking help with the case. □

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## 3 shot dead during unrest in central Venezuela

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

JORGE RUEDA

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— A university student, a National Guard captain and a third man were shot to death in separate incidents Wednesday as anti-government protests roiled the central Venezuelan city of Valencia. Three National Guardsmen and several protesters were wounded.

Two of the deaths came in the opposition-dominated Isabelica neighborhood, where residents unhappy with the scarcity of basic items and rising unemployment from the closure of some businesses in the area have protested for weeks by blocking streets and throwing rocks at police.

Valencia Mayor Miguel Cocchiola said a man was killed and six people wounded in Isabelica. The newspaper Notitarde de Valencia said the dead man's cousin, Luis Acosta, identified him as 20-year-old student Jesus Enrique Acosta and said he was killed near his home by men on motorcycles, but it was unclear if the victim was participating in a protest.

The opposition has accused the government of supporting armed civilian thugs who attack protests. The mayor later said through his Twitter account that another man, 42-year-old Guillermo Sanchez,

also died from a gunshot wound in Isabelica. There were no details on the circumstances.

Carabobo state Gov. Francisco Ameliach, who sup-

Valencia. The federal prosecutor's office had reported earlier that a lieutenant colonel and two National Guardsmen were wounded by gunshots while clear-

dead, according to the government. Venezuelans fed up with inflation that reached 56 percent last year, long lines for buying some items at grocery

which easily won municipal elections in December, shows no sign of collapse. The president accuses the opposition of trying to instigate his overthrow, but his



A demonstrator uses a Venezuelan flag to strike at a line of Bolivarian National Police officers in riot gear, during clashes at an anti-government protest in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, March 12, 2014. A university student has died and a number of others, including three National Guardsmen, have been wounded after being shot by unknown assailants in two separate incidents in the central Venezuelan city of Valencia.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

ports the socialist government of President Nicolas Maduro, announced via Twitter that National Guard Capt. Ramso Ernesto Bracho Bravo also was killed in

ing a barricade blocking a highway in the city. A month of student-led demonstrations in a number of Venezuelan cities has left at least 25 people

stores and one of the highest homicide rates in the world have joined students in protesting against the government. Maduro's governing bloc,

party controls the legislature and judiciary, retains the support of the military and counts as members the governors of all but three states. □

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## Haiti defends plans to develop resort island

TRENTON DANIEL  
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

(AP) — A plan to transform a small Caribbean island off the southern coast of Haiti into a high-end tourism resort will create more than 2,000 jobs and help change the international image of the impoverished country, the prime minister said Wednesday, rejecting allegations that the government will evict hundreds of poor farmers to complete the project.

Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe said the development of the small island known as Ile-a-Vache will be the most ambitious tourism project ever in Haiti and that critics who have clashed with police in a recent series of protests do not fully appreciate the benefits. "This will bring the hope for a better future for all the residents of Ile-a-Vache," Lamothe said by phone while in Chile. "We definitely have no plans to evict anyone."

The \$260 million project being built with a combination of foreign aid and private investment and is scheduled to be completed in two years. It includes an international airport that will allow foreign tourists to bypass chaotic Port-au-Prince, condos, spas, and a community radio station.

Lamothe said there will be more than 2,000 jobs in hotels, in addition to work building schools and a community center. Work has begun on the airport, a \$24 million gift from the government of

"All of sudden, the decree comes out, and they're taking away land to give to foreigners," said Mark Donald Laine, a 27-year-old resident who has lived on the island his whole life. Laine and his neighbors

police beat them. They promise more demonstrations unless the government rescinds the decree. Lamothe said the protests are being led by a small group of people with ties to organized crime networks



Tourists sit in the Karibe Hotel courtyard during a six day visit in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe said Wednesday the development of a small island known as Ile-a-Vache will be the most ambitious tourism project ever in Haiti.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

Venezuela, amid a series of protests that began last year following a government announcement that it was seizing land on the island for the purpose of "public utility" to carry out the tourism project. It didn't settle with a few of the 15,000 people who live on Ile-a-Vache, many of them farmers and fishermen.

formed a group called the Organization of Ile-a-Vache Farmers to protect their land, saying it's been passed down for generations and arguably the only asset they own. So they fought back with tire-burning protests, and police officers showed up on the island to quell the dissent. A few residents said

who are trying to smuggle marijuana through the area, and have an interest in crushing development. Still, people in 100 homes will have to be relocated to make way for resorts, said Tourism Minister Stephanie Villedrouin. "There's going to be some compensation for people who live right there," she said. □

## Duvalier defense attorney in Haiti files new appeal

TRENTON DANIEL  
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— The lead defense attorney for Haiti's former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier has said judges will be responsible for a "civil war" if an appeals court rules against his client.

Privately owned Radio Kisyea on Wednesday broadcast the remarks by lawyer Reynold Georges, who spoke at Haiti's Supreme Court after filing an appeal Tuesday against a lower court decision that Duvalier can face charges involving human rights abuses. Georges also said he requested the removal of three judges because they were untrustworthy.

"If a decision is taken against Jean-Claude Duvalier by the court of appeals," Georges said, "that could cause civil war. The judges will be held responsible and held accountable for the civil war."

The judges ruled last month that the Duvalier case warranted further investigation into the human rights abuses that were allegedly committed during the dictator's 15-year reign, which ended with a popular uprising in 1986. The court decision was celebrated by the prosecution because it creates an opportunity for prosecutors to submit more evidence and perhaps even put him on trial.

The court found that Duvalier could be charged with rights abuses because Haiti is bound by international law that says there's no statute of limitations for crimes against humanity. Georges said he filed the appeal because Haiti doesn't have a law that recognizes crimes against humanity. □

## 63 arrested in Puerto Rico on drug charges

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Authorities in Puerto Rico said Wednesday that they have arrested 63 people accused of running a \$10 million drug-trafficking operation in the island's second largest city. U.S. Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodriguez said the suspects are accused of trafficking

crack, heroin, cocaine, marijuana and prescription medication in the southern coastal city of Ponce. She said the suspects began operating the ring in 2003 at a public housing project. Puerto Rico police and agents with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration carried out the arrests with help from other federal and local authorities.

Also on Wednesday, the FBI announced two arrests in an unrelated case involving more than \$7 million worth of cocaine. FBI spokesman Moises Quinones said one of suspects charged had jumped from a boat that authorities detected trav-

eling toward Puerto Rico's south coast late last year. He said the other suspect was one of eight people awaiting the alleged drug shipment at a beach in the island's southern region. Quinones said some 318 kilograms (700 pounds) of cocaine had been found in the boat. □

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By Robbin Bruns  
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ing in 2014? EQ3's Interior Designer Mariëlle Perez can tell you all about it. "Teal is the ultimate trend color of 2014. It's a combination of primary blue and secondary green that really matches this year and prominently displayed in many interior design magazines. A color that can be combined with natural tints and wood, especially if you want to avoid a specific color dominating a room. Most people's interior style is recognizable by their furniture's colors. The color teal was often used in the design world and is now doing her entrance into the living room. With its calm and yet modern character, teal is a balanced trend color for everyone's home."

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ness, the popular 'Chalo Burgers' mobile food truck - among the winners of the

tion in 2013 - celebrated his own Happy Birthday with family members at his old haunt, Amazonia Churras-



caria, spicing dinner up with a especial Mariachi performance, and warm congratulations from the

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**SPORTS****Aruba TODAY****Kobe Bryant won't be coming back this season****AP Sports Writer**

**EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)** -- Kobe Bryant won't be back on the court for the Los Angeles Lakers this season. Bryant expressed only mild frustration Wednesday after the official announcement of the long-expected decision to shut him down for the year. Bryant's broken bone in his left knee still hasn't healed enough for weight-bearing exercise. With just five weeks left in their miserable season, the Lakers elected to preserve their superstar guard for next year, when he'll be 36. "It's disappointing," Bryant said at the Lakers' training complex. "You want to get out there and play and perform, but at the same time, you've just got to be realistic and go from there."

Bryant has played in just six games this season, the



In this Jan. 19, 2014 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant watches from the sideline during first-half NBA basketball game action against the Toronto Raptors in Toronto.

Associated Press

shortest in the remarkable career of the fourth-leading scorer in NBA history. He missed the first 19 games after tearing his left Achilles tendon last April, and the five-time NBA champion was back in uniform for just 10 days before fracturing the top of his shinbone in Memphis on Dec. 17. The Lakers initially thought Bryant could return shortly after six weeks of recovery, but the bone has been slow to heal. "With Kobe's injury still not healed, the amount of time he'd need to rehab and be ready to play, and the amount of time remaining in the season, we've simply run out of time for him to return," Lakers trainer Gary Vitti said.

Continued on Page 20



In this Sept. 22, 2013, file photo, Dallas Cowboys defensive end DeMarcus Ware walks the field during the second quarter of an NFL football game in Arlington, Texas. The Dallas Cowboys are releasing franchise sacks leader Ware to save salary cap room after the worst season of his career.

Associated Press

**Ware, Peppers released as NFL free agency opens****HOWARD FENDRICH****AP Pro Football Writer**

A couple of accomplished NFL pass rushers suddenly became available when DeMarcus Ware and Julius Peppers were released to create room under the salary cap in two of the biggest moves at Tuesday's start of the free-agency signing period. The Bears cut ties with Peppers, who has 118½ sacks in 12 seasons, as part of a series of moves aimed at improving their defense, including a five-year contract with former Raiders end Lamarr Houston.

The Cowboys let Ware and his 117 sacks go.

"A decision like this, involving a man who is a cornerstone player in the history of your franchise, is extremely

difficult," Dallas owner Jerry Jones said. "We were also in very strong agreement that playing for the Dallas Cowboys would be one of the options we would both be exploring."

With the cap rising \$10 million to a record \$133 million, a crop of players quickly found new homes as soon as the market officially opened Tuesday afternoon — and safeties and offensive linemen were popular commodities.

About 5½ hours after free agency began, one of the top players available, three-time Pro Bowl safety Jairus Byrd, agreed to terms with the Saints, part of a merry-go-round of moves at his position. Other safeties swapping clubs: Michael Jenkins, from Saints

to Eagles; Donte Whitner from 49ers to Browns; Antoine Bethea from Colts to 49ers; T.J. Ward from Browns to Broncos; Mike Mitchell from Panthers to Steelers; Ryan Mundy from Giants to Bears.

In addition to jettisoning Peppers and adding Houston and Mundy, Chicago agreed to one-year deals with linebackers Jordan Senn and D.J. Williams.

Two of the most sought-after cornerbacks also were on the move. Alterraun Verner, who had five interceptions for Tennessee last season, agreed to a four-year contract with Tampa Bay and Aqib Talib left New England for a six-year deal with Denver.

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Verner, 25, could wind up being a replacement for Darrelle Revis, who might be traded or cut to create more salary-cap room for the Buccaneers.

Deals for offensive linemen were highlighted by Pro Bowl left tackle Branden Albert's five-year contract with the Dolphins. Albert left Kansas City to take over the position played at the start of last season by Jonathan Martin, whose exit from Miami in October led to an NFL inquiry into bullying on the team.

Late Tuesday, Martin was traded by the Dolphins to the 49ers.

Left tackle Jared Veldheer and the Cardinals agreed to a five-year contract worth up to \$35 million. Veldheer left the Raiders, who replaced him by giving former Rams lineman Rodger Saffold a five-year deal. Another left tackle, Eugene Monroe, agreed to a five-year contract to stay with the Ravens. □



In this Sept. 29, 2013, file photo, Chicago Bears defensive end Julius Peppers (90) watches from the bench during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions in Detroit. The Bears released eight-time Pro Bowl defensive end Peppers on Tuesday, March 11, 2014.

Associated Press

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# Ginobili leads Spurs past Bulls 104-96

**CHICAGO (AP)**—Manu Ginobili scored 22 points and Tony Parker had 20 as the league-leading San Antonio Spurs beat the Chicago Bulls 104-96 on Tuesday. Kawhi Leonard added 16 for San Antonio, which won its seventh straight and 10th in its last 11. The Spurs (47-16) maintained their hold on the NBA's best record, staying ahead of Oklahoma City and Indiana, who both started play Tuesday a half-game behind the Spurs.

San Antonio jumped out to a big lead early, taking a 61-33 advantage into halftime, including 18 from Parker. That helped them improve to 24-6 on the road, the NBA's best mark away from home.

D.J. Augustin led the Bulls with 24 points and Jimmy Butler had 23.

**PACERS 94, CELTICS 83**

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)**—David West scored 24 points and Andrew Bynum grabbed a season-high 10 rebounds in his Pacers debut, helping suddenly struggling Indiana pull away late for a win over Boston.

Indiana (47-17) ended its longest losing streak of the season at four. Paul George added 12 points as the Pacers extended their Eastern Conference lead to 1½ games over two-time defending champion Miami in the East.

Boston (22-42) was led by Jared Sullinger with 17 points and Kris Humphries



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots over Houston Rockets guard Pat Beverley (2) and guard Francisco Garcia (32) during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, March 11, 2014. Durant scored 42 points as Oklahoma City won 106-98.

Associated Press

with 15 as its two-game winning streak ended.

Bynum played just 15 minutes but his first basket gave Indiana a 16-14 lead and the Pacers never trailed again.

**THUNDER 106, ROCKETS 98**

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)**—Kevin Durant scored 42 points to help the Oklahoma City Thunder defeat the Houston Rockets.

Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook scored 24 points and got the best of nemesis Patrick Beverley. During last year's playoffs, Beverley dived for the ball and ran into Westbrook's right knee as a timeout was being called, causing the injury that ended Westbrook's season and cost him about half of this season. It was their first meeting since the

incident.

Serge Ibaka had 12 points and 16 rebounds for the Thunder, who had lost two straight.

Former Thunder guard James Harden scored 28 points.

**PISTONS 99, KINGS 89**

**AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP)**—Josh Smith scored 24 points and Rodney Stuckey added 23 to lift the Detroit Pistons over the Sacramento Kings.

Andre Drummond added 15 points and eight rebounds for Detroit, outscoring DeMarcus Cousins in a matchup of two of the NBA's top young big men. Cousins had 13 points and 14 rebounds but shot 5 of 15 from the field.

Detroit trailed 54-52 at halftime but outscored the Kings 20-11 in the third quarter.

Rudy Gay scored 20 points and Isaiah Thomas added 19 points and eight assists for Sacramento.

The Pistons snapped a three-game losing streak and pulled to within three games of Atlanta for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

**TIMBERWOLVES 112, BUCKS 101**

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)**—Kevin Love had 27 points, 10 rebounds and six assists and J.J. Barea broke out of a horrid shooting slump to score 19 points to lift the Minnesota Timberwolves over the Milwaukee Bucks. After going 5 for 25 in his previous three games,

J.J. Barea hit 7 of 10 shots to help wake the sluggish Wolves up and Kevin Martin scored 26 points to help them finish a four-game homestand at 2-2.

Brandon Knight scored 21 points for the Bucks (13-51), who led at halftime and were looking for their first set of back-to-back victories this season. But after scoring 61 points in the first half and leading by 11 points in the second quarter, the Bucks were outscored 19-4 to start the fourth quarter.

**GRIZZLIES 109, TRAIL BLAZERS 99**

**MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)**—Marc Gasol scored 19 points, Zach Randolph added 18 points and 12 rebounds as the Memphis Grizzlies solidified their hold on the final Western Conference playoff spot with a victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Mike Conley added 17 points and Courtney Lee finished with 16, including helping the Grizzlies extend their lead in the third quarter. Mike Miller had 14 for Memphis, which won its third straight.

Damian Lillard led the Trail Blazers with 32 points.

**WARRIORS 108, MAVERICKS 85**

**OAKLAND, California (AP)**—Jordan Crawford scored 19 points, and Andrew Bogut had 15 points and 10 rebounds as the surging Golden State Warriors routed the Dallas Mavericks for their fifth straight win. □

me absolutely crazy.' Bryant discussed more than his injury in what's likely to be his final public comments for a while. He also used the occasion to ask for "a clear direction" of the Lakers' path through what's certain to be a rocky offseason, mentioning owners Jim and Jeanie Buss by name.

Bryant said he won't be satisfied with another rebuilding year for the Lakers, who are virtually certain to miss the playoffs next month for just the second time in his 18-season career in Los Angeles. □

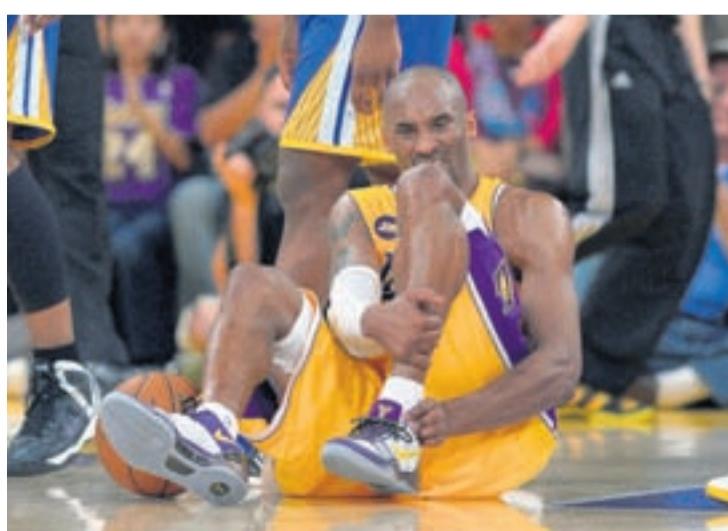
## Kobe Bryant

Continued from Page 18

Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni hasn't been expecting Bryant's imminent return, and he knew Kobe couldn't save the injury-ravaged team's lousy campaign. At 22-42, Los Angeles began the day in a three-way tie for last place in the Western Conference with 29 losses in its last 38 games heading into Thursday's trip to Oklahoma City. "Seems like this is what's best for his health," D'Antoni said. "Just make

sure he's well, and get ready for next year, that's the No. 1 thing."

And though Bryant has barely played this season, the famed competitor hasn't enjoyed his perspective on the Lakers' failures. "I feel like killing everybody every time I go to the arena," Bryant said. "I'm just on edge all the time. Yeah, I still feel it, probably more than anybody in the organization does. I probably feel it more, and it drives



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant grimaces after being injured during the second half of their NBA basketball game against the Golden State Warriors, Friday, April 12, 2013, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 118-116.

Associated Press



## Slagter wins 4th stage of Paris-Nice, Thomas takes lead

**BELLEVILLE, France (AP)** — Tom Jelte Slagter of the Netherlands won the fourth stage of the Paris-Nice cycling race on Wednesday, with British rider Geraint Thomas taking the overall lead after finishing second in a sprint to the line.

Slagter broke away from the main pack on the final and most difficult of four moderate climbs and Thomas was the only one who could keep up.

"Today was the best possibility to do something. That climb really suits me good but I didn't expect it," Slagter said.

"I know Tom is pretty good and that he is fast and strong as well."

I knew that if I wanted to beat him I had to wait until the right moment to sprint, otherwise I would maybe lose."

Thomas moved three seconds ahead of previous leader John Degenkolb of Germany, who finished 31st. Slagter improved to third overall, four seconds behind Thomas.

With defending champion Richie Porte pulling out just before the race to instead compete in the Tirreno-Adriatico, Thomas was handed the responsibility of leading Team Sky.



**Garmin's Tom Jelte Slagter, of the Netherlands, reacts as he crosses the finish line to win the fourth stage of the Paris-Nice cycling race in Belleville, central France, Wednesday, March 12, 2014.**

Associated Press

"Friday before the race started I was told I was going to lead the team, which was big.

Paris-Nice is one the biggest stage races in the world behind the Tour de France and Giro (d'Italia)," Thomas said.

A competent climber, the 27-year-old Thomas will be favored to keep the yellow jersey in Thursday's fifth stage, which takes the peloton over 153 kilometers (95 miles) from Creches-sur-Saone to Rive-de-Gier and features four modest hills. □

## Cavendish takes Tirreno lead as Omega wins TTT

**SAN VINCENZO, Italy (AP)**

— British sprinter Mark Cavendish leads the Tirreno-Adriatico after his Omega Pharma-Quick Step team won a time trial to open the weeklong cycling race on Wednesday.

Omega clocked 20 minutes, 13 seconds over the flat 18.5-kilometer (11.5-mile) route from Donoratico to San Vincenzo.

It was an identical start from last year, when Cavendish also took the lead with an Omega win.

"The team is stronger than last year," Cavendish said. "We went fast, we went hard, but the faster you go in the team time trial the easier it feels. We were really smooth with the pace the whole way. You almost feel like you didn't go fast enough when it's like that." One of the greatest sprinters of all time, Cavendish has had a slow start to this season, with his only individual win coming in a stage of the Tour of Algarve last month. Three-time time trial world champion Tony Martin was again the main engine behind Omega's success, which should benefit Michał Kwiatkowski and Rigoberto Uran, who are aiming for the overall win. "We tested the route several times and nobody



**Britain's Bradley Wiggins leads his Sky teammates as they ride during the first stage of the Tirreno Adriatico cycling race from Donoratico to San Vincenzo, Italy, Wednesday, March 12, 2014.**

Associated Press

had a big ego and wanted to stand out," Cavendish said. "Obviously Tony is very strong at time trialing but nobody — not even him — wanted to do too much. We all worked together as well as possible and it went great." Orica Greenedge finished second, 11 seconds behind, and Movistar — featuring Tour de France runner-up Nairo Quintana — was third, 18 seconds behind.

Alberto Contador's Tinkoff Saxo placed fourth, 24 seconds behind. Sky, with Bradley Wiggins and Richie Porte, was sixth, 27 seconds behind.

Porte was added to Sky's squad last week when Tour de France winner Chris

Froome announced that he would sit out the race due to a back injury.

Stage 2 on Thursday is a 166-kilometer (103-mile) leg from San Vincenzo to Cascina that sets up well for sprinters like Cavendish.

"I have a team that's really set up well for the sprints," Cavendish said. "And we're strengthened by the arrivals of (Mark) Renshaw and (Alessandro) Petacchi."

Including a couple of uphill stages, the race ends on Tuesday with an individual time trial in San Benedetto del Tronto.

Many riders use it as a warmup for the Milan-San Remo classic, which is slated for March 23. □

## Raonic's big serve beats Murray at Indian Wells

**BETH HARRIS  
AP Sports Writer**

**INDIAN WELLS, California (AP)** — Canada's Milos Raonic used his big serve to earn a 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory over Andy Murray in the fourth round of the BNP Paribas Open on Wednesday. Raonic fired 15 aces and held triple match point when he ripped a cross-court forehand to close out the win after breaking Murray three times in the final set.

"The third set was just a bad, bad set of tennis," said Murray, who broke Raonic to lead 2-1 before losing five



**Andy Murray, of Great Britain, reacts after losing a point against Milos Raonic, of Canada, during fourth round match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, March 12, 2014, in Indian Wells, Calif.**

Associated Press

of the final six games.

Murray, ranked sixth in the world, struggled in all three of his matches at Indian Wells. He rallied to beat Lukas Rosol and Jiri Vesely, but couldn't overcome Raonic's power.

"He obviously wins a lot of free points with his serve," Murray said. "So over the course of the set, if you give up enough unforced errors on basic shots, then with the amount of free points he gets on his serve, that's going to add up to a negative result."

Raonic blew his first match point when he returned

Murray's serve long. Murray held to trail 5-3, but Raonic held at love to close out the match. He hit 42 winners to 22 for Murray.

Playing his first tournament since injuring his left ankle at the Australian Open in January, Raonic hadn't beaten someone in the top 10 since defeating then-No. 6 Tomas Berdych in the Bangkok final in September. Raonic, a 23-year-old ranked 11th in the world, advanced to the quarterfinals against Alexandr Dolgopolov of Ukraine, who beat Fabio Fognini of Italy, 6-2, 6-4. □

# Ways eyed to make planes easier to find in ocean

JOAN LOWY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For nearly five years, government and industry officials have been exploring ways to make it easier to find airliners and their critical "black boxes" that end up in the ocean. But their efforts are too late to help in the case of a Malaysia Airlines jet that disappeared over the weekend.

The efforts were spurred primarily by the search for Air France Flight 447, which disappeared over the Atlantic Ocean en route from Rio de Janeiro to Paris on June 1, 2009. It was nearly two years later before the main wreckage of the Airbus A330 and its black boxes — its data and cockpit voice recorders — were found about 13,000 feet below the ocean's surface.

Since then, U.S., European, and industry officials and technical organizations have discussed requiring underwater locator beacons on black boxes last at least 90 days instead of the current 30, making the boxes so that they will float, attaching underwater locator transmitters to the aircraft fuselage and putting floatable emergency locator transmitters on planes, according to a National Transportation Safety Board briefing Tuesday.

But those efforts are still a work in progress.

"I think at the time a lot of people were looking at Air France 447 as unique," William Waldock, who teaches accident investigation at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. "We really had not had one like that where it takes so long to find it."

But a Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 with 239 people on board disappeared over open ocean en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, and has proved remarkably difficult to find. Data recorders typically record over a 24-hour period at least hundreds of types of information about how



This March 10, 2014 file photo shows a woman taking a photo of a screen displaying the number of hours since a Malaysia Airlines passenger jet had gone missing at a mall in Beijing, China.

Associated Press

a plane is functioning. Investigators count on that information for clues to the cause of an accident, including how the engines are working, the pilots' actions, the status of key systems like the autopilot and autothrottle, and the position of wing flaps and rudder.

The cockpit voice recorders contain pilots' conversations and any sounds inside the cockpit in a continuous two-hour loop.

Both are required to be equipped with an underwater locator beacon powered by a tiny radioactive pellet that continually sends out sonic signals for a minimum of 30 days. In recent years there has been discussion about whether the beacon signals should be required to last at least 90 days, according to the NTSB.

Even with a functioning beacon, the signal can only be heard underwater with special equipment and can diminish depending upon the ocean depth, water currents and whether the boxes are buried in silt or sand.

There have been discussions about requiring boxes be made so that they float, and of attaching underwater locator devices to the plane's structure to

help find both the wreckage and the boxes, the board said.

Another idea that has been discussed is whether airliners should have emergency locator transmitters — which are different than underwater beacons — that automatically detach and float to the surface if the plane plunges into water. Such transmitters, which

employ satellite technology, only work above the water. The U.S. Navy has had such floating transmitters on its planes for about 15 years, Waldock said. "It boils down to expense as much as anything," Waldock said. "These systems are pricey."

A technical advisory committee to the Federal Aviation Administration began

a three-day meeting in Washington on Monday about whether transmitter standards should be strengthened.

Some newer airliners already stream much of the same information recorded by black boxes back to their home base via satellite.

Airlines do this primarily so that they know whether there are any problems with the plane that require maintenance or repairs. If they get the information while the plane is still in flight, they can have mechanics and parts in place when it lands, saving time and money.

But if planes also streamed back information like altitude, airspeed and heading, it could also provide critical clues to searchers in the event of a crash. However, if all the thousands of airliners that are in the air in the U.S. everyday were all streaming large amounts of data at the same time, there wouldn't be enough bandwidth to transmit the data or enough capability to record it on the ground, Waldock said. □

# Inventor of Web calls for digital bill of rights



Sir Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web and founder of the World Wide Web Foundation, informs the media about the human rights and the World Wide Web during a press conference at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013.

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The British inventor of the World Wide Web wants a digital bill of

rights to protect Internet users from surveillance. Speaking on the 25th anni-

versary of his creation, Tim Berners-Lee says he hopes to spark a global conversation about the need to defend principles that have made the Web successful. He told the Guardian newspaper that the Web was under increasing attack by governments and corporate interests. He said the system needed an online Magna Carta, or foundation of rules, to protect its openness and neutrality. Berners-Lee said in a statement Wednesday he believes the Web should be "accessible to all, from any device, and one that empowers all of us to achieve our dignity, rights and potential as humans." □

## Herbalife faces US FTC inquiry; shares plunge

SARAH SELL

AP Business Writer

PORLAND, Oregon (AP)

— Herbalife Ltd. is facing an inquiry from the Federal Trade Commission, the nutrition and supplement company said Wednesday as its shares initially plunged more than 12 percent following a brief halt in trading pending the announcement.

Herbalife said that it received the civil investigative demand from the FTC on Wednesday. The FTC's website says that these are used to investigate possible "unfair or deceptive acts or practices." A representative from the FTC was not immediately available to elaborate.

The company, which has faced accusations of operating a pyramid scheme, said that it welcomes the inquiry given "tremendous amount of misinformation in the marketplace" about its business.

Herbalife says it believes it is in compliance with all laws and regulations and plans to cooperate fully.

The company, which is incorporated in the Cayman Islands and based in Los Angeles, uses a network of distributors to sell its nutritional supplements and weight-loss products globally.

The FTC inquiry comes just a day after hedge fund manager William Ackman renewed his attacks on the company.

Ackman has bet against the company and said repeatedly that he believes it operates as a pyramid scheme, which is when a company makes most of its money by recruiting new salespeople rather than on the products that they sell.

The head of Pershing Square Capital Management resumed this effort Tuesday, holding a public event to detail his firm's claims of how its Herbalife is operating as a pyramid scheme in China, violating laws there. Pershing declined to comment Wednesday on the FTC investigation. □

## Stocks rebound at close after slow day

ALEX VEIGA  
AP Business Writer

For much of Wednesday, the U.S. stock market appeared to be headed for its third decline in three days. By late afternoon, the market began to slowly pare its losses as investors bought up oil refiners, mining companies and technology stocks.

The push was enough to nudge the Standard & Poor's 500 index into the

The three major U.S. stock indexes are still down for the week. Stocks had a strong finish last week, setting three record highs. Investors have been worried this week about a sharp drop in China's exports in February reported over the weekend, which raised concerns that the world's second-largest economy is slowing. Since China is a big consumer of raw materials and en-

gaged those gains, which is what they're doing," said Quincy Crosby, a market strategist with Prudential Financial. "They need to adjust the gains and then wait for the next catalyst to move higher." That could come Thursday, when new data on retail sales and weekly unemployment benefit applications are released. On Friday, a survey of consumer confidence should give



Specialist Michael Gagliano, foreground center, works with traders at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

green by half a point. The tech-heavy Nasdaq composite also finished higher. The S&P 500 index added 0.57 points, or 0.03 percent, to close at 1,868.20. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 11.17 points, or 0.1 percent, to 16,340.08. The Nasdaq composite rebounded in the early afternoon, gaining 16.14 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,323.33.

ergy, commodities such as copper and iron ore have dropped sharply. Copper has fallen to its lowest level since 2010, but recovered somewhat Wednesday. A dearth of major U.S. economic news helped dampen trading Wednesday, leaving the market listless. "When markets reach these kind of new highs very often they have to di-

traders a better sense of how Americans feel about the economy. The state of China's economy is sure to continue to be a focus, however.

"We've been seeing these periodic, occasional weak data points come out of China," said Randy Frederick, managing director of trading and derivatives at the Schwab Center for

Financial Research. "And each time that happens when our markets are at ... record highs, they're going to be very sensitive to any sort of negative news and there'll be days of profit-taking." While China growth concerns appeared to hurt oil prices Wednesday, it didn't stop investors from buying up oil refiners.

Tesoro Corp. rose the most of any stock in the S&P 500 index, climbing \$2.13, or 4.1 percent, to \$54.50. Marathon Petroleum Corp., added \$3.21, or 3.5 percent, to \$94.50, while Valero Energy Corp., gained \$1.62, or 3 percent, to \$55.29.

Investors also took a shine to mining companies as metals prices increased. Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. rose 43 cents, or 2.4 percent, to \$18.41 and Newmont Mining Corp. rose 66 cents, or 2.7 percent, to \$25.01.

Tech giants Google, Microsoft and Facebook also contributed to the day's gains. Together they make up about 12 percent of the Nasdaq composite. Google rose \$7.31, or 0.6 percent, to \$1,207.30; Microsoft added 25 cents, or 0.7 percent, to \$38.27 and Facebook climbed 78 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$70.88. Six of the 10 industry sectors in the S&P 500 index notched small declines, with industrials posting the biggest drop. Utilities paced other gainers, as investors moved money into the relatively low-risk sector.

Among the S&P 500 index's big decliners were insurer Progressive, which shed 94 cents, or 3.8 percent, to \$23.58, and ADT, which fell 98 cents, or 3.3 percent, to \$28.75. □

## Microsoft names head of investor ValueAct to board

REDMOND, Washington (AP) — Microsoft Corp. has appointed Mason Morfit, the president of activist investment firm ValueAct Capital, to its board of directors.

Morfit has pushed for Microsoft to focus on its enterprise software products and cloud computing busi-

ness rather than its flagship Windows computer operating system, which is being hurt by the declining sale of PCs. The appointment, announced late Tuesday, had been expected. Microsoft entered into a co-operation agreement with ValueAct in August following the firm's purchase last

year of some 66.9 million shares, or about 0.8 percent of the total outstanding. That stock is currently worth about \$2.55 billion. Microsoft's board now has 11 members, including former CEO Steve Ballmer, founder Bill Gates and new CEO Satya Nadella. Morfit's financial back-

ground, experience as a public company director and his perspective as a shareholder give him "valuable insights," said Microsoft Chairman John Thompson in a statement Tuesday. Microsoft shares rose 24 cents to \$38.26 in late afternoon trading Wednesday. □

## GM to offer loaner cars, cash to small-car owners



The General Motors logo is on display at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. General Motors is offering free loaner cars to owners of compacts that are being recalled for a deadly ignition switch defect, the company said Wednesday, March 12, 2014. The company also will offer a \$500 cash allowance to owners who want to buy or lease a new GM vehicle.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

**TOM KRISHER**  
AP Auto Writer

**DETROIT (AP)** — General Motors is offering free loaner cars and \$500 toward a new GM vehicle to more than a million owners of compact cars that are be-

ing recalled for a deadly ignition switch defect. But the owners have to ask in order to get the benefits. The offers, disclosed in a document posted Wednesday on the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration's website, are effective immediately. Owners will be able to use the loaner cars until parts arrive at dealerships to replace the faulty switches. They are expected around April 7, GM said.

## Pfizer stock trades halted over drug patent ruling

**LINDA A. JOHNSON**  
AP Business Writer

**TRENTON, New Jersey (AP)**

— Trading of Pfizer Inc. stock was halted briefly Wednesday afternoon due to news that a federal court had invalidated the key patent for one of its most lucrative medicines, potentially opening the door for cheaper generic versions 18 months sooner than expected.

Pfizer, the world's second-biggest drugmaker, said in a statement that it disagrees with the ruling and will "pursue all available remedies," including immediately appealing the court's decision.

Celebrex, Pfizer's fourth-bestselling product,

brought in \$2.9 billion in worldwide sales last year. The anti-inflammatory pill is widely used for arthritis and acute pain.

Trading of Pfizer shares was halted for 20 minutes on the New York Stock Exchange, "pending the release of material news."

Trading resumed shortly after Pfizer released a statement that it would fight the ruling.

Shares dipped 29 cents when trading resumed, with volume picking up sharply. Shares closed at \$31.97, down 45 cents or 1.4 percent, but still near Pfizer's 52-week high.

The case involves a reissued patent that would prevent U.S. sales of generic ver-

sions until Dec. 2, 2015.

Five makers of generic drugs are seeking Food and Drug Administration permission to sell generic Celebrex starting on May 30, when the drug's original patent expires.

New York-based Pfizer sued the five companies, alleging patent infringement. But on Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Arenda Allen of Virginia's Eastern District in Norfolk ruled the reissued patent isn't valid.

The lawsuit had been scheduled for a trial beginning on March 19, but last week the judge notified the parties that she would rule on motions they had filed in the case, instead of holding a trial. □

The \$500 cash allowance offer runs through April 30. GM last month announced the recall of 1.6 million older small cars worldwide because faulty ignitions can shut off engines unexpectedly.

If the engines shut off, drivers can lose power steering and power brakes, and the air bags may not inflate if there's a crash.

GM now counts 12 people as having died in crashes linked to the problem. The company said Wednesday that one victim had been double-counted.

GM is facing a Department of Justice investigation, as well as investigations from two congressional committees and federal safety regulators over its handling of the recall.

The company has admitted that it knew about the problem a decade ago.

Committees in the House and Senate also want to know why the government's road safety watchdog, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, didn't take action sooner.

The loaner/rebate program is part of GM's damage control efforts. Last week, CEO Mary Barra promised that an internal review would bring improvements and prevent similar problems in the future. She also said current management is intent on "taking great care of our customers and showing that it really is a new day at GM."

On Feb. 13, GM announced the recall of more than 780,000 Cobalts and Pontiac G5s (model years 2005-2007).

Two weeks later it added 842,000 Saturn Ion compacts (2003-2007), and Chevrolet HHR SUVs and Pontiac Solstice and Saturn Sky sports cars (2006-2007). In the document disclosed Wednesday, GM tells dealers that in situations where an owner is concerned about driving their car and asks for a loaner, service managers can give them one until repair parts arrive. Dealers are also instructed to tell owners who ask that GM isn't offering to buy back their car. But the company will offer the owners cash toward buying or leasing a new Chevrolet, Buick, GMC or Cadillac vehicle.

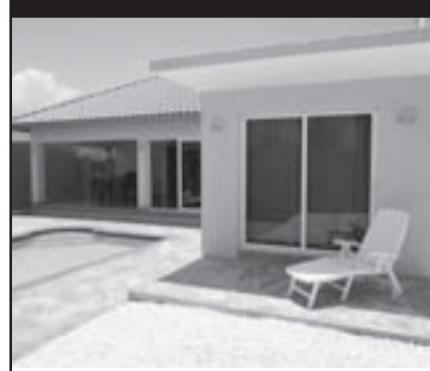
The allowance "is intended to assist those customers who are unhappy and may want to trade out of their vehicle," the document said.

"This special cash allowance is not a sales tool."

GM says a heavy key ring or jarring from rough roads can cause the ignition switch to move out of the run position. The company is urging people not to put anything on their key rings until the switches are replaced.

Shares of GM have fallen 7.3 percent this week amid word of new investigations. The stock fell 24 cents, or 0.7 percent, to \$34.94 in late-day trading Wednesday. □

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# Lagos aims to use trash to make electric power

CARLEY PETESCH

Associated Press

**LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)** —

At Lagos' largest dump, dozens of men gather to sort iron, plastic and nylon atop a 20-foot wall of garbage where hundreds of white herons compete to eat the spoils.

Lagos is engulfed in waste. With a population of more than 20 million, the city has garbage that piles up on streets, outside homes and along the waterways and lagoons, creating eyesores and putrid smells. The booming city also has major electricity shortages and many residents rely on diesel generators that cloud the air with black exhaust.

Lagos is turning these problems into an advantage by starting a program to convert waste into methane gas to generate electricity. A pilot program at a local market has already shown success on a small scale. Lagos' waste management program is also organizing recycling to clean up the biggest city in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country of about 170 million people.

The project to harness waste to create power has begun at the 42-hectare (104 acre) Olusosun dump where pipes are stuck vertically into the ground to gather methane gas.

"Those will eventually fire boilers that create electricity," said Abimbola Jijoh-Ogun, general manager of administration for Lagos



In this photo taken Friday, Jan. 24, 2014, scavengers in Lagos, Nigeria sort out iron and plastic to sell at the Olusosun dump site the city's largest dump.

Associated Press

State Waste Management Authority as she pointed to the pipelines in about a quarter of the site.

Olusosun receives about 40 percent of the city's estimated 10,000 metric tons of garbage per day, according to the waste management department. The project aims to produce enough electricity to light the waste management site, which is open through the night.

"We aren't reinventing the wheel," said Jijoh-Ogun of Lagos' initiatives, but the city is using this as an opportunity to take advantage of its high moisture waste. About 45 percent of the garbage generated in the city is organic material.

It might seem like a small solution to a huge problem,

but the project is an important step in a plan that has come a long way in the years since Ola Oresanya was appointed chief executive of the waste management program.

"It's about changing the city," said Oresanya. "You're converting waste to energy, which is in demand, and over time it might also be viable as job creation." Lagos is only among a handful of African cities looking at waste for energy, he said, unable to give an exact timeline for the estimated production of between 5 and 10 megahertz.

Lagos' waste management system is also building a recycling program and has organized the people

already coming to the dump. Nearly 500 scaven-

gers, now called "resource providers" by the city, collect what they can sell.

"We go through the scraps and look for shoes, iron, plastic which we sort and sell it to companies," said Samuel Jatel, 29, who said he provides for his wife and 3-year-old child. On the job for four years, he said he can make a maximum amount of 5,000 naira (\$30) per day.

Jude Michael, 41, said he makes about 1,000 naira a day. Nylon is made into refuse bags. Plastic bottles are collected and made into material for furniture.

At the Ikosi market pilot scheme organic waste is turned into electricity. Fruit sellers bring their rotting fruit to the small shed, or it is collected by refuse workers. Then it is mashed

up into a paste and fed into a 20 cubic meter red anaerobic digester where it ferments and emits gas to fill a balloon-like tank at the top. The waste is then taken from the bottom and used for gardening compost. The gas, filtered and then piped to a generator, produces a beam of light so that wholesale fruit sellers can unload their produce overnight. The exhaust from the generator is clear.

Pineapples, bananas and watermelons seem to give the greatest outputs, said Tolulope Adeyo, recycling manager for the waste management program. She hopes the Ikosi market can provide its own electricity and that eventually the estimated 500 fruit markets in Lagos will power themselves.

Adeyo said it's also important to work with waste closer to the consumer. The city has advertised its recycling agenda on radio stations, encouraging residents to collect plastic and bring it in for cash or credits. In December 2013 they focused on households in selected neighborhoods to sort their garbage, Adeyo said.

Getting the public to view waste as a resource will take time, she said. "You have to give them reasons that are good for them," she said. "What was a headache today is being converted into something more useful for tomorrow." □

## U.S. gene mapping study shows promise, challenges

LINDSEY TANNER

AP Medical Writer

**CHICAGO (AP)** — These days, it's faster and cheaper than ever to decipher a person's entire DNA. But a

small U.S. study suggests that looking for disease risks that way may not be ready for the masses.

For one thing, the research found that gene variants

most likely linked with significant disease were the least likely to be accurately identified.

And analyzing the mass of data from the DNA scan is a daunting task, researchers said.

Some experts think more targeted gene-mapping is a better approach. But while whole genome sequencing is mostly done for research, it has far-reaching potential for diagnosing and treating genetic diseases, even in people with no known

risks. The new results show its promise and its challenges.

Stanford University researchers performed whole genome sequencing in 12 healthy people. Most of the millions of genetic variants they found were of uncertain significance, although one woman was found to have a high genetic risk for cancer.

DNA is recovered by a simple blood test and deciphered by machines. The difficulty lies in interpreting

the findings and figuring out which variants are important and which ones can be ignored. That takes days of sophisticated follow-up lab tests and interpretation to reveal potentially meaningful genetic information, the researchers said.

Dr. Euan Ashley, a senior co-author and Stanford associate professor of medicine and genetics, likened the technology to "an unruly teenager who has grown up very fast. There's huge potential." □

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## Leno, Murdoch among TV Hall of Fame inductees

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Bill Maher took advantage of pal Jay Leno's Television Academy Hall of Fame induction to offer a spirited attack on what Maher called undeserved "bad publicity" for the former "Tonight Show" host. The other inductees included media baron Rupert Murdoch; Julia Louis-Dreyfus; prolific writer-producer David E. Kelley ("Boston Legal," "The Practice," "Ally McBeal"); and former ABC executive Brandon Stoddard, who shepherded breakthrough shows including "Roots."

Introducing Leno at Tuesday night's ceremony, Maher said his behavior never warranted the brickbats tossed at him over Conan O'Brien's short-lived tenure as "Tonight Show" host.

"Jay Leno reminds me a little bit of Israel," Maher said. "He's not perfect, but he's held to a standard nobody is expected to live up

to but him."

The media helped fan the myth that Leno "stole Conan's dream" when NBC brought Leno back to host "Tonight" after the show's ratings dropped in 2009 with O'Brien at the helm. Maher, host of HBO's "Real Time," used an expletive to dismiss the idea that such a theft is possible, then offered himself as a tongue-in-cheek example: He claimed that Tom Cruise robbed him of the starring role in "Top Gun." Leno's reputation among critics as a bland host compared with supposedly "edgy" predecessor Johnny Carson also is a falsehood, Maher said, and called Leno suited to his time just as Carson was when he hosted "Tonight." After Maher's introduction, Leno's remarks proved mild. Repeating assertions he made when he ended his 22-year tenure as host in February, Leno, 63, said it was the right time to turn "Tonight" over to the



Hall of Fame inductee Jay Leno speaks on stage at the 2014 Television Academy Hall of Fame on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at the Beverly Wilshire in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

younger Jimmy Fallon, who is 39. Leno said he watches Fallon's show, and the two talk a couple of times a week.

"He's terrific. He brings a new energy," Leno said

before the ceremony. "I think he was smart to take it to New York, get a different vibe or different feel."

Murdoch noted that the TV academy ceremony fell on his 83rd birthday, which he called an annoyance: "As you well know, I'm not fond of looking back," he said. The chairman of News Corp. and 21st Century Fox did offer reflections on his career, which he said has focused on providing consumers with more choices and taking the risks needed to do so — such as starting the Fox network in 1986 to

compete with the big three broadcasters.

Murdoch, whose media empire was shaken by a phone hacking scandal that led to the current London trial of two of the top editors of Murdoch's defunct News of the World, did not take questions before the ceremony.

Louis-Dreyfus, the Emmy-winning star of "Seinfeld," "The New Adventures of Old Christine" and "Veep," was saluted by friend Amy Poehler as "the best one on 'Seinfeld'" and always the funniest in a room. □

## Marcia Gay Harden talks role of 'Fifty Shades' mom

ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Since being cast in the film adaptation of "Fifty Shades of Grey," Jamie Dornan, who plays the S&M-loving billionaire Christian Grey, has largely stayed out of the public eye.

Aside from being spotted on the streets of Vancouver, British Columbia, while filming the movie, the 31-year-old Dornan hasn't walked any red carpets or really talked about the role.

He did tweet on Jan. 1 from his official account, "looking forward to 2015," which hinted at the film's scheduled release next February. (That tweet was retweeted more than 5,000 times.) This aura of mystery surrounding Dornan is a good thing, says Marcia Gay Harden, who plays his character's mother in the



In this Feb. 21, 2012 file photo, actress Marcia Gay Harden arrives at the 14th Annual Costume Designers Guild Awards at the The Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

film.

"I think the point is to have somebody mysterious because if you have somebody with too much pedigree to them ... you can't stop thinking about the pedigree. You just can't. It's almost impossible in a film to do that. ... I think that would be very hard to

do for that role, so I think it's good that he's a bit of a mystery."

Dornan had a recurring role on ABC's "Once Upon a Time" and starred in the Irish TV drama series "The Fall" as a serial killer who targets women. The show was renewed for a second season. □

## 'Fast & Furious 7' to film in Abu Dhabi in April

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Vin Diesel and other members of the "Fast & Furious 7" cast are heading to the Mideast city of Abu Dhabi after months of uncertainty about the fate of the movie.

Abu Dhabi's government-backed twofour54 media hub said in a statement Wednesday that shooting in the United Arab Emirates capital is scheduled to take place in April.

Filming of "Fast & Furious 7" was put on hold in December following the death of star Paul Walker in a car crash. A crew filmed some helicopter shots, stunt footage and other scenes in Abu Dhabi in November. Cast members including Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez and Chris "Ludacris" Bridges are expected to arrive when filming resumes next month. □

## Second thoughts on TV's second-screen experience

**FRAZIER MOORE**

**AP Television Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Whatever happened to watching TV alone?

Just me and my TV. No multiscreen experience. No smartphone or tablet hornin' in on the action. With my hands, excused from any laptop obligations, free to reach for my snacks and hoist a brew. I mean me, chilling out, in pleasant isolation.

Please understand, I don't mind if other people are present in the room (I'm not a misanthrope or recluse), provided they don't blab at the wrong times or make a play for the clicker. Sharing "Househunters" (for instance) with a fellow devotee can even enhance my enjoyment watching this reality show. Swapping catty comments about its house-hungry couples and mocking their insistence on "granite countertops" and "curb appeal" only adds to the fun.

Communal consumption with the Twitterverse doesn't.

Example: I watch "Scandal" devotedly. But while I'm watching, why would I want to follow the torrent of posts from viewers I can't see and will never meet? Why would I want to contribute my own share of "OMGs" at the moment-to-moment wackiness that



This image released by ABC shows actors, from left, Jeff Perry, Kerry Washington and Tony Goldwyn in a scene from "Scandal." The series airs Thursdays at 10 p.m. EST on ABC.

Associated Press

swirls around Olivia Pope? "Scandal" triggers wild responses from its viewers. But why do I need to monitor them and add to them in real time, just to be part of some virtual In Crowd? Especially since "Scandal" is such a fast-moving show! Posting something about it can mean I miss a key twist in the saga. Sure, I can watch TV and type at the same time. But I prefer to save my multitasking for the office.

I find TV shows fall into two categories: Some — like "Scandal," "Game

of Thrones" or a sprightly comedy or probing documentary — deserve my full concentration.

Other shows, the sort that fit the classic description of TV as "chewing gum for the mind," I greet as a chance to zone out.

In the former category, the second screen becomes an unwanted distraction. In the latter case, I just want to veg. To gaze, not engage.

I'm reminded of Henry David Thoreau, who in the mid-1800s went off-the-grid to Walden Pond and fa-

mously observed: "We are in great haste to construct a magnetic telegraph from Maine to Texas. But Maine and Texas, it may be, have nothing important to communicate."

It seems that Twitter, however attractive as a way for viewers to bond, enables a swarm of co-viewers who, it may well be, have nothing important to communicate. The greatest value of second-screen interaction accrues to nosy outsiders who analyze and archive all those tweets. Data miners curate what the Twitte-

rati say about each show as it unfolds for sharp-eyed scrutiny by network bosses and ad buyers who happily pay for this quantified buzz about their programming, stars, advertisements and brands.

That's no knock on Twitter. Twitter is great for democratizing public sentiment. Everyone can speak out, and everyone is counted (no hanging chad when it's companies like Blue Fin and Topsy doing the counting).

So viewers are encouraged to exercise their franchise in 140-character bursts. According to a recent book, "Social TV," we all live "in a world where television has symbiotically become one with the Web, social media and mobile."

Except when it isn't. Which is how I choose to see it. To paraphrase Sigmund Freud: "Sometimes TV is still just TV." Or should be.

It's certainly more convenient that way. Remember, the process of live-tweeting during TV shows typically demands watching them, in real time, as they air. After decades of being yoked to the networks' schedules, viewers have been set free in recent years, blessed with on-demand alternatives that let them craft a programming schedule to their personal whims (and skip commercials in the bargain).

Why, then, would viewers willingly surrender to watching TV en masse and in lock-step just for the privilege of jabbering to one another? I, for one, am master of my domain (in this respect, anyway) — and happy to remain so.

But maybe the appeal of the second-screen experience isn't all that it's cracked up to be. A survey of some 2,500 U.S. consumers conducted last fall found that just 13 percent of people who have used a smartphone or tablet to access TV-show-related content said synchronizing this second-screen content with the show as it airs makes the viewing experience "much more enjoyable." □

## Book of Winfrey columns to be published in fall

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Oprah Winfrey's latest book project is a collection of magazine columns by a writer she knows quite well.

Oprah Winfrey.

"What I Know for Sure" features the monthly essays that Winfrey has written for O, the Oprah Magazine over the past 14 years. Flatiron Books, a new nonfiction imprint of Macmillan, announced Wednesday that "What I Know for Sure" will come out Sept. 2. It will

be the imprint's first release. According to Flatiron, the book will be organized around such themes as joy, gratitude and possibility. Winfrey has said she named her column "What I Know for Sure" after film critic Gene Siskel asked her "What do you know for sure?" during an interview. She has called the columns a way of "taking stock" of her life.

Winfrey will write the book's introduction. □



This Feb. 22, 2014 file photo shows Oprah Winfrey speaking at the 45th NAACP Image Awards in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

## The Leaderless Doctrine



DAVID BROOKS

© 2014 New York Times

We're in the middle of a remarkable shift in how Americans see the world and their own country's role in the world. For the first time in half a century, a majority of Americans say that the U.S. should be less engaged in world affairs, according to the most recent Pew Research Center survey. For the first time in recorded history, a majority of Americans believe that their country has a declining influence on what's happening around the globe. A slight majority of Americans now say that their country is doing too much to help solve the world's problems.

At first blush, this looks like isolationism. After the exhaustion from Iraq and Afghanistan, and amid the lingering economic stagnation, Americans are turning inward.

But if you actually look at the data, you see that this is not the case. America is not turning inward economically. More than three-quarters of Americans believe the U.S. should get more economically integrated with the world, according to Pew.

America is not turning inward culturally. Large majorities embrace the globalization of culture and the internationalization of colleges and workplaces. Americans are not even turning inward when it comes to activism. They have enormous confidence in personalized peer-to-peer efforts to promote democracy, human rights and development.

What's happening can be more accurately described this way: Americans have lost faith in the high politics of global affairs. They have lost faith in the idea that U.S. political and military institutions can do much to shape the world. U.S. opinion is marked by an amazing sense of limitation - that there are severe restrictions on what political and military efforts can do. This sense of limits is shared equally among Democrats and Republicans, polls show. There has been surprisingly little outcry against the proposed defense cuts, which would reduce the size of the U.S. Army to its lowest levels since 1940. That's because people are no longer sure military might gets you very much.

These shifts are not just a result of post-Iraq disillusionment, or anything the Obama administration has done. The shift in foreign policy values is a byproduct of a deeper and broader cultural shift.

The veterans of World War II re-

turned to civilian life with a basic faith in big units - big armies, corporations and unions. They tended to embrace a hierarchical leadership style.

The Cold War was a competition between clearly defined nation-states.

Commanding U.S. leaders created a liberal international order. They preserved that order with fleets that roamed the seas, armies stationed around the world and diplomatic skill.

Over the ensuing decades, that faith in big units has eroded - in all spheres of life. Management hierarchies have been flattened. Today people are more likely to believe that history is driven by people gathering in the squares and not from the top down. The liberal order is not a single system organized and defended by U.S. military strength; it's a spontaneous network of direct people-to-people contacts, flowing along the arteries of the Internet.

The real power in the world is not military or political. It is the power of individuals to withdraw their consent. In an age of global markets and global media, the power of the state and the tank, it is thought, can pale before the power of the swarms of individuals.

This is global affairs with the head chopped off. Political leaders are not at the forefront of history; real power is in the swarm. The ensuing doctrine is certainly not Reaganism - the belief that America should use its power to defeat tyranny and promote democracy. It's not Kantian, or a belief that the world should be governed by international law. It's not even realism - the belief that diplomats should play elaborate chess games to balance power and advance national interest. It's a radical belief that the nature of power - where it comes from and how it can be used - has fundamentally shifted, and the people in the big offices just don't get it.

It's frankly naïve to believe that the world's problems can be conquered through conflict-free cooperation and that the menaces to civilization, whether in the form of Putin or Iran, can be simply not faced. It's the utopian belief that politics and conflict are optional.

One set of numbers in the data leaps out. For decades Americans have been asked if they believe most people can be trusted. Forty percent of baby boomers believe most people can be trusted. But only 19 percent of millennials believe that. This is a thoroughly globalized and linked generation with unprecedentedly low levels of social trust. We live in a country in which many people act as if history is leaderless. Events emerge spontaneously from the ground up. Such a society is very hard to lead and summon. It can be governed only by someone who arouses intense moral loyalty, and even that may be fleeting. □



## The Spies Who Didn't Love Her



MAUREEN DOWD

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WASHINGTON - Even "Homeland" never thought of a plot this wild.

The CIA hacks into computers that Senate intelligence committee staffers are using in the basement of a CIA facility because the spy agency thinks its congressional overseers have hacked into the CIA network to purloin hidden documents on torture. It puts a whole new tech twist on the question from Juvenal's "Satires:" Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? Who will guard the guards themselves?

The Obama administration was caught off guard by Vladimir Putin's power grab in Ukraine. Was the CIA too busy spying on the Senate to spy on Russia?

In his mad odyssey through the dark side - waterboarding, secret rendition, indefinite detention, unnecessary war and manipulation of CIA analysis - Dick Cheney did his best to vitiate our system of checks and balances. His nefarious work is still warping our intelligence system more than a decade later.

Barack Obama, the former constitutional law teacher who became president vowing to clean up the excesses and constitutional corrosion of W. and Cheney, will now have to clean up the excesses and constitutional corrosion in his own administration. And he'd better get out from between two ferns and get in between the warring congressional Democrats and administration officials - all opening criminal investigations of each other - because it looks as if the CIA is continuing to run amok to cover up what happened in the

years W. and Vice encouraged it to run amok.

Langley needs a come-to-Jesus moment - pronto.

That was clear Tuesday morning when Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the chairwoman of the Senate intelligence committee, suddenly materialized on the Senate floor to "reluctantly" out the CIA.

It was an astonishing "J'accuse" moment because Feinstein has been the bulwark protecting the intelligence community against critics worried that we've become a surveillance state, "the privacy people," as she has called them.

But she saw things differently when she was the victim of government spying. She suggested that the CIA had violated federal law and wondered "whether our work can be thwarted by those we oversee." She said her staff, after dealing with CIA obstructionism and an unwieldy document dump while trying to get the truth about the agency's detention and torture programs, somehow got access in 2010 to a review conducted under former CIA chief Leon Panetta, which she said acknowledged "significant CIA wrongdoing."

She asserted that committee staff used a search tool provided by the CIA and did not hack into the agency's computers, wondering if they could have been helped by a whistle-blower. But, soon enough, the Panetta review - along with about 920 other documents - began vanishing from Senate computers. Feinstein said that on Jan. 15, John Brennan, the CIA director, came to the Hill to tell her and Vice Chairman Saxby Chambliss that CIA personnel had arbitrarily conducted a "search" of her committee's computers, worried that the Senate had improperly gotten access to the Panetta review.

In June, Brennan had issued a 122-page classified rebuttal to the still-classified \$40 million, 6,300-page Senate report. But Feinstein said on the floor that she found the CIA riposte "puzzling," given that the Panetta internal review admitted to what

the CIA's rebuttal objected to. Given the CIA's 2005 destruction of videotapes showing the torture of two al-Qaida operatives, Feinstein said she has now locked up in the committee vault in the Hart Office Building the parts of the Panetta review that her staff had printed out before it disappeared. She has also requested in writing that Brennan turn over a complete version of the review to the committee.

She said she has received no answers from Brennan, who is no fan of Congress or the media, to her formal questions about the agency's actions and no response to her request for an apology.

She was clearly appalled by the nerve of the agency's acting general counsel, Robert Eisinger, in making a criminal referral to the Justice Department suggesting her staff is guilty of wrongdoing.

She noted that Eisinger, whom she identified only by job title, worked in the Bush administration as a lawyer in the CIA's counterterrorism center, which carried out the notorious detention and interrogation program. She observed archly that Eisinger's name was cited more than 1,600 times in the Senate report.

In 2007, The Times' Mark Mazzetti and Scott Shane reported that when a CIA official trashed those interrogation videotapes, he told superiors that two CIA lawyers had signed off on it. One was Eisinger. In a Q&A at the Council on Foreign Relations just after Feinstein's floor speech, Brennan told Andrea Mitchell that he is in no way trying to "thwart" the Senate. He denied that the CIA hacked into Senate computers, noting that it was beyond "the scope of reason in terms of what we would do."

But is anything beyond the scope of reason for the CIA anymore? Shouldn't someone have gone to jail now besides the guy who blew the whistle on waterboarding? It's typical that Langley, which has bungled so much for decades, couldn't even spy on the Senate properly without getting caught. □

The veterans of World War II re-

France:

## Quest to Convert Sea Snail Plague Into Culinary Pleasure

LALITA CLOZEL

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**CANCALE, France** - On this storm-weathered tip of Mont Saint-Michel Bay, the sweeping tides have washed away the line between land and sea. Fishermen drive their wheeled boats straight into the bay to gather their harvest: an assortment of shellfish prized all over France.

But now they are finding their nets weighed down by an invasive species: the crépidule, or Atlantic slipper shell, a curious type of sea snail that has spread from the East Coast of the United States.

Oyster and mussel producers here have watched helplessly as the colony has taken over their beautiful bay, flush with phytoplankton, the microorganisms that make it a haven for all manner of shellfish and tint the water turquoise.

Enter Pierrick Clément, a local entrepreneur who looked at the encroaching Atlantic slipper shell and asked an unthinkable question in a town that has built its livelihood on bountiful seafood: Would people eat the insidious creature? "As a businessman, I see an opportunity here," he said, after extricating a snail, still alive, from its shell with a knife.

The slipper shells, which he affectionately calls "the problem," could become a delicacy - served either raw or cooked, he said.

The snail, a sliver of orange flesh clamped tightly within a shell, tastes somewhat like whelks and scallops, but it has never caught on as common fare.

"It is considered to be a parasite," said Frederic Baslé, who owns a seafood cart by the shore at Port de la Houle.

The community of Cancale now finds itself torn between disgust and relief at Clément's project to fish and sell the sea snails for consumption.

After years of administrative haggling, he has coaxed local municipalities and producers to back his proj-

ect and begin a campaign to rehabilitate the snail's image. The creature has been rechristened "berlingot des mers," a poetic term at odds with the rather vulgar nicknames it has earned here for its frenetic mode of reproduction. Clément grew up dive-fishing for oysters, abalones and sea urchins, and, like most Bretons, he had never thought of eating the ubiquitous Atlantic slipper shell.

rants, and also plans to reuse the calcium-rich shells in construction material and to improve the acidic soil of his native Breton coast.

His pilot factory, among the bustling oyster plants in nearby Le Vivier-sur-mer, ships to a few stores and restaurants in France, Spain and Germany.

Eventually he hopes to process as much as 100,000 tons of slipper shells per

referring to local staples like mussels, scallops and the native flat oysters, which have been produced on the Breton coast for centuries. "Stereotypes are hard to fight."

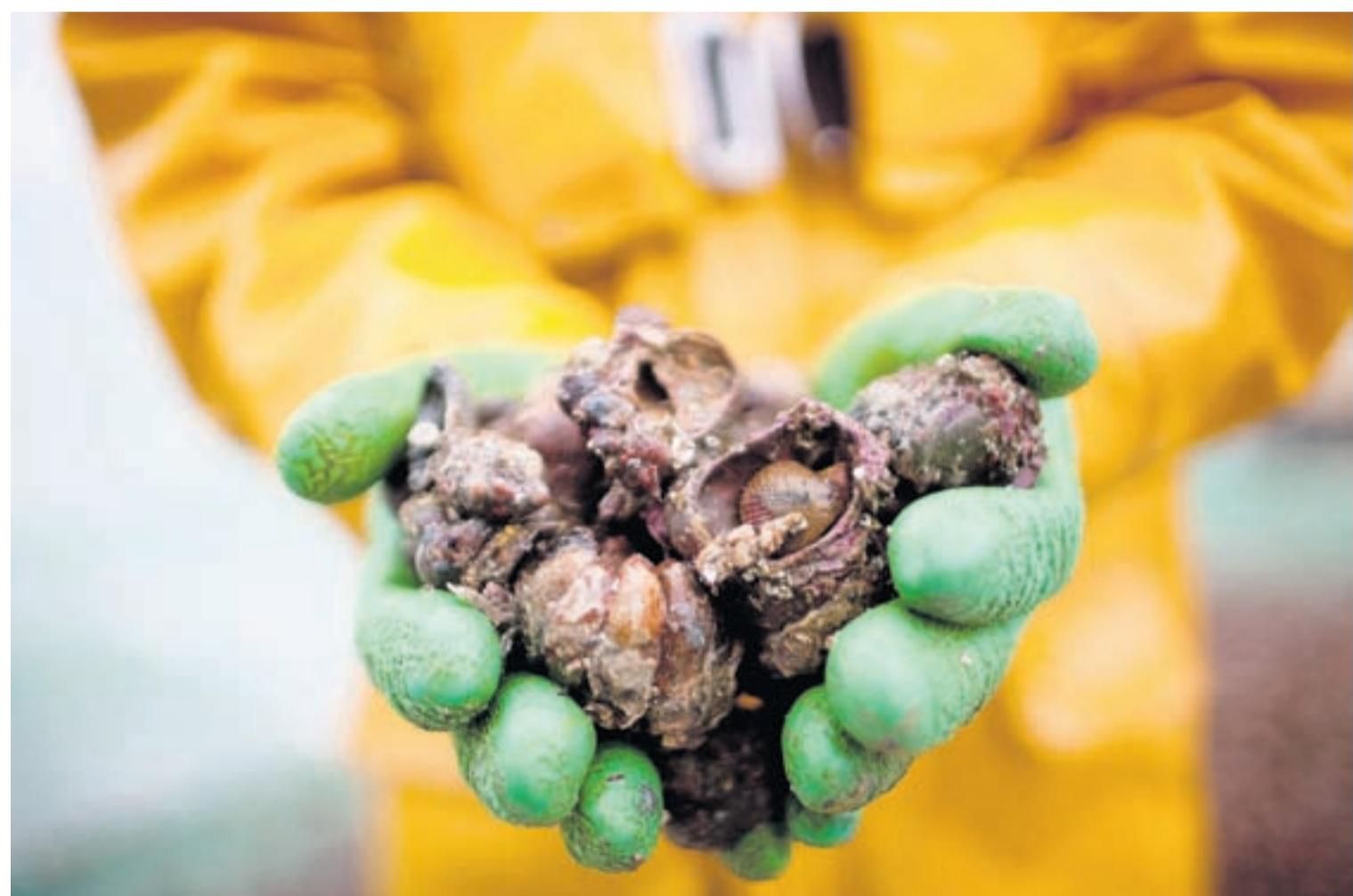
Even worse for a fruit de mer - a French term that designates all edible seafaring creatures besides fish - "the shell is just not that pretty," Clément added.

The slipper shells have been prevalent in Brittany since

them out of the bay and dumped them farther out in the sea.

They have also tried crushing them and scalding them in giant pots right on the fishing boats, or simply left them to dry out in heaps on the ground.

Notwithstanding this rough treatment, the slipper shell remains the most populous creature in the bay, growing by 10 percent per year. Seafood producers com-



**Jean-Francois Dore holds Atlantic slipper shells, an invasive species, on a boat in Cancale, France. Pierrick Clement, a local entrepreneur, is attempting to create a market for the reviled shellfish, which is damaging the local seafood industry.**

(Catalina Martin-Chico/The New York Times)

Then he found out about a mechanism that could crack open the shells of the invasive sea snails on an industrial scale without damaging the flesh, and he quickly invested a million euros in research and development.

It was not the first time that Clément had seen a way to make money on unlikely food items. He grew wealthy exporting halal foie gras and unwanted duck parts that are delicacies in China.

Now he is distributing packages of frozen slipper shell flesh to stores and restau-

year - enough to offset their growth in the bays of Mont Saint-Michel, Saint-Brieuc and Morlaix.

Clément aims to sell the slipper shells primarily to the American, Japanese and Chinese markets, where they might have a less pesky reputation than in France.

Marketing the slipper shell at home, however, presents a real challenge: persuading a country - and a region - anchored in culinary tradition to adopt a new ingredient.

"People here eat traditional products," he said,

the 1970s and were brought here by ships carrying oysters, though local lore has it they were first brought to nearby Normandy in 1944, stuck to the hulls of British Allied ships.

In Brittany they latch on to mussels, oysters and scallops, filching their phytoplankton and crippling their growth, while driving away native species of fish and algae. Repeated extermination campaigns have been futile.

In their efforts to rid their stretch of coast of the slipper shells, the local authorities have scooped

plain that the oysters and mussels cultivated on wooden posts and racks planted near the shore are shrinking, while the yield has decreased 20 percent in 30 years.

Clément claims that eating the slipper shells is the only realistic option for the seafood industry and the ecosystem it is built upon.

Joseph Jambon, head of the local shellfish producers union, has agreed to share his oyster fishing boat Le Papy with Clément, who declared it the first boat in the world to willingly fish for Atlantic slipper shells. □